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MILITARY AFFAIRS

No. 1570

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AIR FORCES: TRAINING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Reconnaissance Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Oct 80 p 1

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col G. Ivanov: "Reconnaissance Aircraft over the Target"]

[Text] The flight commanded by Capt V. Staver received a mission to update the location of "enemy" positions. In such a flight the aviators are forced to remain in the "enemy's" air defense zone for a lengthy time and carry on intense single combat, the outcome of which and, consequently, the result of mission accomplishment, depends on the pilots' knowledge of tactics and their ability to employ the most effective technique and maneuver in a specific situation.

First Class Specialist Capt V. Staver acquired experience in penetrating air defense opposition in training flights to the tactics range both singly and as leader of a flight distinguished by teamwork and high flight schooling. Capt V. Luk'yanenko, leader of the second pair, arrived in the subunit recently, but already has proven to be a tactically mature pilot.

Prior to take-off the squadron commander, Maj V. Korniyenko, recommended that the pilots study the tactical situation along the route and over the battlefield from a photo mosaic. He required them to play out all possible models of the reconnaissance flight with consideration of the features of this situation.

The flight headed by Capt Staver lifted off at the estimated time. Performing a maneuver at low altitude, the leader skillfully used the hilly terrain to provide concealment. The pilots of course realized that the "enemy" always was awaiting the scouts, but in modern warfare it is important to anticipate him and win time. It is no less important to make fullest use of one's tactical arsenal and avoid stereotypes in actions. The aerial scouts had foreseen a complication of the situation. When information was received aboard the aircraft about threat of an attack from the right (these were fighter-"hunters"), the flight commander began executing a maneuver which considerably hindered the "enemy's" aiming.

Pairs acted precisely and in coordination. Although the leaders vigorously changed the flying regime, wingmen senior lieutenants O. Shekhovtsov and P. Bondarenko kept precisely in formation, preserving the given intervals and

distances. It is no accident that the squadron commander pays much attention to group flying in daily practices.

Ways of improving the fliers' piloting and tactical expertise and increasing the teamwork of flights and the squadron were discussed repeatedly at party meetings and party bureau sessions. Party members made many sensible proposals, adoption of which contributed to an increase in the aviators' flight schooling.

The squadron persistently teaches lieutenants the art of combat maneuvering as a pair. This is also aided by organizing competition by tasks and norms during flights. In determining the winner, commanders usually take account of the quality with which each element of the mission was accomplished and the effectiveness in executing a maneuver. As a result even young pilots lieutenants M. Aleksandrov and S. Stepanov already are operating confidently in group flying.

Capt Staver's subordinates also are distinguished by good schooling. For example, recently Capt Luk'yanenko became a 1st class military pilot. The training level of senior lieutenants Shekhovtsov and Bondarenko also corresponds to a 1st class rating. This time as well they acted capably and cohesively.

In the reconnaissance area they had to locate objects densely screened by air defense weapons and determine their coordinates. They had to "elevate" flying altitude to improve the view of the terrain. The "enemy" also received certain advantages when they did this. It was important to keep him from using these advantages. That meant they had to try to detect the camouflaged objects from the move. There were large-scale maps in the map boards attached to the pilots' knees. But there was no time to compare the terrain with them: The reconnaissance pilot has to know characteristic reference points from memory, be able to locate a target instantaneously and determine its coordinates. The aviators had practiced this in flying to the tactical range.

Before take-off the flight leader had determined which objects each pilot was to reconnoiter. This permitted the aviators to act purposefully and precisely in the air. It took the crews a matter of seconds to detect the camouflaged targets from unobtrusive signs. Their coordinates were immediately passed by radio. After performing an avoiding action, the flight set a course for its airfield.

Increasing Training Effectiveness

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Oct 80 p 2

[Article by Gds Col A. Krasnov, commander of guards air division, 1st class military pilot: "Precongress Rostrum: The Regiments Come on Line"]

[Text] The personnel of our Order of Lenin, Twice Red Banner, Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov Volgograd Guards Fighter-Bomber Division are working in a fighting mood in the final phase of the training year. The aviators are striving to fulfill their pledges in socialist competition completely and greet the 26th CPSU Congress with new successes in training and service. It stands to reason that there must be precise organization of the entire training and indoctrination process in order to achieve higher indicators in combat and political training and in the strengthening of military discipline.

Considering this, we are focusing chief efforts on improving our work style and raising the effectiveness of each activity in the struggle for expert mastery of equipment and weapons. Officers of the combined unit's staff and political department show constant concern for the effectiveness of supervision and the check of execution. They thoroughly analyze the state of affairs in units and subunits and evaluate what has been achieved in an exacting manner. It is as a result of this approach that new reserves for a growth of the aviators' combat proficiency are identified, as well as the shortcomings which hinder forward progress and demand an efficient remedy. I will explain this in an example.

It turned out in a routine summary of competition results that the unit commanded by military pilot-sniper Col V. Grinenko had noticeably surpassed the neighboring regiment in qualitative indicators in improving air schooling and preparing pilots to raise their class rating, with a slight lag in number of flying hours. What determined the success?

An analysis showed that it was above all the high degree of organization and a thoughtful approach to planning, both long-range and current. Back at the beginning of the training year the young pilots here were assigned to the most experienced flight commanders, who acquired instructional methods skills in different flying conditions ahead of time. And the allotment of battle tasks was drawn up so that tasks of preparing specialists with a high rating were accomplished in a differentiated manner in the squadron depending on the flight training level reached. The long-range plan accordingly envisaged how best to use training time. All this permitted more frequent special-purpose flights. The effectiveness of flight sections rose and so an enormously greater number of tasks were successfully accomplished in the very same time periods, and with high quality and a considerable saving of the aviation equipment's operating life.

Concerned for the effectiveness of the training process, the commander, staff and party organization make active use of the force of socialist competition for developing the personnel's spirit of discipline, friendship, collectivism and each person's interest in attaining overall success. An attempt was made in the unit to create an atmosphere of mutual exactingness and intolerance toward shortcomings through concerted efforts. This allows timely recognition of shortcomings in the organization of training and competition.

Staff officer Maj A. Azhmyakov once saw, during a routine check of combat training results, that a drop in qualitative indicators in performing combat application flying had become apparent in one of the competing subunits. Why was that so? The fact is that much more should have been expected from the squadron commanded by Maj V. Murashov. The pilots and aviation specialists here have high ratings and the subunit was awarded a Lenin Honor Scroll for success in training and service.

The commander and staff thoroughly analyzed the state of affairs in the subunit. It turned out that attention had relaxed here toward direction of competition in classes and practices, and exactingness often was not displayed in evaluating military labor. In addition, self-complacency already had appeared in some experienced specialists: they thought they were capable of any assignment without especially thorough preparation.

Complacency and self-delusion over what has been achieved do not contribute to success in anything, let alone in combat training, where a soldier is required to have a high exertion of moral and physical forces. For this reason the collective demanded a strict, party accounting of those who allowed indulgences in flight preparations. Col Grinenko checked the knowledge of some officers. It was learned in particular that flight commander Capt S. Meleshko had poorly mastered the procedure for bombing from an advanced kind of maneuver. But this officer is an experienced pilot. This time, however, he had not prepared for the assignment properly. He had to be temporarily removed from flight duty and a deadline was set for additional classes and for taking a test. Other officers also drew a proper lesson for themselves from this incident.

A businesslike conversation was held at a party commission session about increasing the quality of flight preparations and the personal example set here by each party member. Along with critical remarks, there also were specific suggestions for increasing the effectiveness of party-political work in the subunits. The steps taken were of benefit.

In short, life itself persuades us that an exacting evaluation of achievements must be combined with organizational work performed through the coordinated efforts of the commander, staff and party activists to remedy the deficiencies uncovered.

And just what was noted in the neighboring unit, which, as already mentioned, had been among the leaders but conceded the position it had won? I asked this question not because the state of affairs here causes concern. Not at all. Not long ago, for example, advanced flying was performed in a near-combat situation. The crews capably accomplished an active search for the given target on a completely unfamiliar range remote from the airfield. They combined a swift avoiding action with an accurate strike against "enemy" targets. Therefore it will be no exaggeration to state that the aviators demonstrated high tactical schooling, fire proficiency and toughening of their will.

But can the achievements be satisfying if there also were omissions along with this? The hour's flight was solid but, as they say, it didn't fit into the plan and there was a hitch in raising a class rating. Perhaps the unfavorable weather conditions or some other reasons were a hindrance here? It turns out they were not. The entire trouble was that the flight section exercises were not always tied in with the monthly planning schedules.

We looked into this and helped correct matters. We tried to ensure that the neighboring unit's foremost experience was adopted here as well and put into practice efficiently. At the same time we stepped up supervision over the implementation of flight training plans. The political department also defined concrete measures to reinforce party influence in the struggle for the quality of flight training. On its recommendation, a party committee session heard an account from party member Maj V. Yakovlev, leader of one of the squadrons. The flight leaders in this subunit were not helping the crews determine specific pledges in competition by tasks and norms of the flight section, and at times would forget to summarize results. There was a fundamental discussion about the manager's work style and his personal responsibility for an assigned job.

Comrade L. I. Brezhnev emphasized in his speech at the November 1979 Party Central Committee Plenum that "no matter what work sector we examine, we see everywhere the enormous opportunities and enormous reserves for successful forward progress. But in order to use them there must be an increase in the level of control..." This also obligates each of us officer-managers to take a self-critical look at achievements and comprehensively improve our work style in organizing the personnel's training and indoctrination. In the struggle for effective and high-quality accomplishment of operational training missions and in the work of adopting in practice the experience of the best--the leaders of competition--and rallying the military collective, it is always important to consider that the indoctrinational role of military labor is displayed fully only when this labor is scientifically organized, when it is reliably supported materially and organizationally, and when all activities are dealt with in a political approach. It is on these pivotal directions that we are focusing our main efforts in organizational and indoctrinational work performed in the division's subunits and units.

In fulfilling decisions of the 25th party congress, the personnel of our division achieved good indicators in combat improvement. The mastery of modern aviation systems is proceeding as planned. The schooling of flight personnel, aviation engineering service personnel and specialists of the aviation rear has risen noticeably. But the people are not satisfied with what has been achieved and are thinking of greater things. There still remains a large expanse for improvement even for the experts who have mastered many kinds of training. They have to be concerned for augmenting the arsenal of tactics and expanding the field of the aircraft's combat employment in operations against ground and air targets. In this connection the division staff and political department have seen to it that an important and effective reserve such as extensive propaganda and the adoption of foremost experience and everything best in competition management is being used actively.

We see our party and military duty as being to greet the 26th congress of the native party with new successes in military labor and affirming the title of foremost combined unit.

Helicopter Support for Motorized Rifle Unit

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Oct 80 p 2

[Report by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col V. Parfenov, Southern Group of Forces: "In a Guards Manner"]

[Text] Enveloped in darkness and dense haze, the ground could not be seen from aboard the helicopter. Only now and then did dim spots of light float by, creating an illusion of distant stars. It seemed the earth and the sky had changed places.

Squadron commander Gds Lt Col V. Morya took the rotary-wing craft confidently along the given course. He was acting as an umpire in this exercise. Although he appeared outwardly calm, one still sensed that he now had all his thoughts with the squadron proceeding somewhere behind us. There Gds Maj S. Yermakov, the deputy squadron commander and a 1st class military pilot, was the leader of the group of helicopters. The aviators had been assigned a mission of landing a tactical force

in a designated area, then being ready to support the motorized riflemen's attack by fire.

A few minutes later our helicopter landed in the zone. Here was where the force would be landed. "It's good that the conditions are difficult," remarked Lt Col Morya. "That means the test for flight proficiency will be stricter as well."

On the eve of the exercise I had been told in the regimental headquarters that the squadron commander could not tolerate indulgences. Vladimir Ivanovich had over a quarter-century of flying service behind him. He had been awarded the Order "For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" 3d Class. The personnel of his squadron took an active part in socialist competition. On the eve of the 25th party congress the subunit became outstanding and since then it has held this title firmly. The squadron now has 95 percent of the pilots with a 1st class rating. Personnel of the aviation engineering service have approximately the same class rating indicator rating. And now in the final phase of the training year the aviators are working all out in an attempt to accomplish each operational training mission with a grade of outstanding and in a guards manner.

...The approaching helicopters still are not visible from the landing zone, but the squadron commander, glancing at the luminous watch dial, said confidently:

"They will be here in five minutes."

He was not wrong. The group of helicopters appeared exactly at the given time. The crew of Gds Maj S. Yermakov was first to come in for a landing, followed by that of Gds Capt A. Kirichenko. After observing their landing, the political officer who had flown with us as navigator asked Vladimir Ivanovich:

"What do you think? Kirichenko's crew is also now among the competition leaders?"

"Yes, its development is noticeable," responded the lieutenant colonel, heading for the crews which had landed.

"He doesn't like to talk about success," said the political officer, nodding toward the squadron commander. "But thanks to his help, many young officers have made noticeable progress in their command development. Gds Capt Kirichenko also is grateful to him for his knowledge. Not everything went well for him at first when he joined the squadron. In one exercise the crew he commanded was not able to hit a ground target. The squadron commander looked into what had happened. It turned out that Officer Kirichenko had relaxed supervision over the crew members' training. Of course, a reduction in exactingness dampened the people's ardor. Some of them also prepared listlessly for that flight.

"How did Lt Col Morya act? He analyzed the crew's work in detail on the ground and in the air, then assigned Gds Capt Kirichenko to prepare a paper on the role of the squadron commander in training and indoctrinating subordinates, with a subsequent discussion of the paper in a class. In addition, he also used other forms of individual work. The result was that Gds Capt Kirichenko's crew moved among the leaders."

Falling silent for a bit, the political officer then spoke again:

"Did you see the expertise with which Gds Capt Stepanov landed the craft? The squadron commander also taught him a great deal.

"Yes, Officer Stepanov previously made mistakes in landing at night. The squadron commander worked with him personally. He explained and showed on the ground and in control flights how to hold a glide path and the rate of cutting speed precisely. By the way no matter which of the squadron pilots you take, you will see in him the squadron commander's flying 'hand'."

A command for take-off interrupted our conversation.

On the return to the airfield, while crews were preparing for another sortie for fire support of the motorized riflemen, it was learned that the squadron operated excellently in the first phase of the exercise.

The new mission was performed with the very same grade.

The aviators operated precisely, cohesively, in a guards manner during the exercise. In discussions with the personnel, party and Komsomol activists told about the persons who had distinguished themselves most, and they tried to make the experience of the best the property of everyone.

Central Asia Bomber Missile Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Oct 80 p 1

[Article by Lt Col N. Onishchenko, Red Banner Central Asian Military District: "A Squadron Attacks Suddenly"]

[Excerpts] The squadron commanded by 1st Class military pilot Maj V. Kotov was assigned the mission of using bombing and missile strikes to support ground forces, neutralize "enemy" weapons, and deliver a strike against his command post.

The winged craft were reliably prepared for the flights. Capt Tech Serv P. Pechera, Capt Tech Serv M. Podolyuk, Sr Lt Tech Serv V. Gunar and many others had worked here. All calculations needed for approaching the target at different altitudes with consideration of possible changes in the weather, variants of aircraft ordnance, and the aviators' level of schooling and tactical training were ready in the squadron. The entire operating procedure had been practiced in a short exercise and by the dismounted flight training method.

...The prearranged signal sounded. Radiotechnical flight support equipment was switched on. The CP team took their work stations. The squadron commander was first to take off with a group of crews to perform the mission. A master of combat application, Maj Kotov not only masters the equipment and the techniques and methods of combat employment of the aircraft and its onboard ordnance under all weather conditions to perfection himself. He tries to ensure that all the squadron's pilots have high schooling and high combat activeness. To this end he trains subordinates capably, consistently and persistently. The training process is well organized in the squadron and strict supervision is established over the aviators'

preparations for each sortie. The squadron commander works in close contact with the political officer and the party and Komsomol organizations, seeing in them reliable support and friendly advisers. Thanks to high teamwork and coordination in work throughout the entire summer training period, comparability and publicity of competition results were ensured efficiently in the squadron and the experience of leaders was propagandized widely. Party and Komsomol members led colleagues by word and personal example. Even now the second group of crews which took off to perform the mission was headed by the squadron party bureau secretary, Capt V. Tikhonov, who is commander [illegible] outstanding flight and a 1st class military pilot.

In training pilots, this flig[illegible]mander always adheres to the principle of going from the simple to the complex. [illegible] takes account of subordinates' individual features. The fact is that some become quickly and firmly established in flying, while others make many mistakes before gaining firm control. Using the practice of an individual approach, Tikhonov thoroughly analyzes the reasons for mistakes and finds ways of remedying them. That was the case, for example, with Capt I. Rode. He showed himself to be a capable, promising pilot from his first days of service. He piloted stably. But then there were sudden failures. In firing against ground targets he lacked time for accurate aiming. In working with his subordinate, Tikhonov helped him not only hone his professional expertise, but also to condition his will and character in order to rid himself of nervousness and haste in a dive and in other advanced forms of maneuver. He used the flight simulator and flights in the trainer aircraft productively to this end. Capt Rode presently is a 1st class aerial fighter and one of the best pilots in the squadron. In this exercise his crew was acting as part of Tikhonov's group.

...The turning points along the route had been passed. A characteristic reference point appeared below--a bend in the channel of a small, dried-up stream. Now keep your eyes open. The slightest mistake could lead to disruption of the attack. The squadron commander had built his calculation on concealment and surprise in the approach to the target. The crews operated tactically competently in the difficult situation, constructed the route and flight profile correctly and maintained combat formation capably. They moved to the target area precisely in place and time. The break-up, combat turn and dive--everything was performed faultlessly. The groups of crews headed by majors V. Kotov and A. Yanbikov and by Capt V. Tikhonov delivered accurate bombing strikes against the "enemy." The surprise attack disorganized opposition.

The peals of jet thunder had not yet died away when supersonic missile-armed aircraft again appeared at low altitude above the positions of "hostile" troops. They attacked the targets, previously allocated among themselves, in pairs. This time missiles were put to use. The plumes of bursts were clearly visible on the ground. And again came a stunning, irresistible attack. Support of the troops from the air proved effective.

The director of the final exercise gave high praise to the vigorous, resolute actions of the squadron's pilots and their capable mastery of combat equipment and ordnance.

Lack of Transient Facilities Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Oct 80 p 2

[Letter to editors by Capt V. Shcherbakov, 1st class military pilot: "A Flight With Obstacles"]

[Text] Dear Editors! My position is flight commander. This time the flight crew under my command was assigned to ferry an aircraft to an aviation repair enterprise. The period of our TDY also was given. The assignment appeared to be a simple one.

But our flight dragged on a long while. The period of TDY already has ended, but we can in no way get to our destination. We have been sitting more than two weeks on one of the airfields of the Volga Military District in expectation of authorization for the take-off.

I tried to find out what the problem was. And what do you think? Some officials referred to objective reasons. Of course, if the weather is inappropriate everything is understandable. But the fact is that there was good weather, but we were sitting inasmuch as, as it was explained to us, there were no rooms in the hotel at the destination airfield. We even had occasion to hear the following argument: A final inspection now is under way, so there is no time for your crew. By such excuses another officer in charge essentially is trying to place the blame on someone and justify his own inability to organize.

I have had several TDY's such as this this year, and each time it was approximately the very same picture--a flight with obstacles. Therefore I consider this issue to be an urgent and important one.

My letter does not give the names of the officials responsible for supporting the flight. I can't give them because I don't know them, although I spoke with many of these comrades over the telephone. They listened to my request, but took no steps and gave no assistance. But it appears to me that senior officers will look into all this. It would be well if such "brakes" did not exist on the ferry crew routes.

Follow-Up Report on Transient Facilities

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Dec 80 p 2

[Article: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'Flight With Obstacles'"]

[Text] A letter from Capt V. Shcherbakov was published on 30 October under that title. It told about the unsatisfactory organization of a flight itinerary as a result of which the crew ferrying an aircraft to an aviation repair enterprise was delayed for a long while at intermediate airfields.

The editors received a response to this newspaper article from Col Gen Avn I. Gaydayenko, deputy chief of the Main Air Force Staff. It states that specialists of the Air Force central apparatus performed a thorough check of support arranged for this flight. The facts presented in the letter did occur. As it was learned during the check, some officials of the Volga Military District Air Force staff as

well as of the Orenburg Higher Military Pilots' School imeni I. S. Polbin staff exercised poor supervision over this flight. The C1C of the Air Force issued a special order to remedy these shortcomings.

Col V. Bakherev was given a strict reprimand and Col A. Sidorov was given a reprimand for omissions in supporting the flight.

TOL Training on Simulators

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Dec 80 p 1

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Col V. Zhuravlev: "In a Precise Rhythm"]

[Text] There is order and cleanliness in the two-story training building. The orderly reported clearly who was working where. "Let's go to the trainer," suggested Maj A. Sitnikov.

A class was under way at the simulator complex, with flight commander Capt V. Sirotin at the control console. Turning to Sr Lt K. Chorba, he reminded him: "All attention on the instruments. After the fourth turn try to maintain the glide path as precisely as possible."

The final approach maneuver requires a pilot to have special precision in piloting. Some young aviators, however, still lack the ability to allocate attention to instruments properly and firm skills in controlling the aircraft. For example, not all is going well for Sr Lt Chorba in glide-path tracking. "Don't hurry and everything will occur as it should," the instructor tells him calmly. "Act as if you are in a combat aircraft."

The trainee takes his place in the cockpit. As prescribed prior to a flight, he checks operation of flight equipment. Then a radio exchange between the flight commander and his subordinate already is heard over the loudspeaker. It can also be seen how the recorder is registering all "flight" parameters. The first, second and third turns are performed precisely and without mistakes. Another maneuver and the aircraft is on the glide path. The instructor brought the microphone up to his lips, apparently wishing to give some command, but he changed his mind. As Capt Sirotin explained later, it was in this phase of the flight, at the moment the far beacon was passed, that the pilot [illegible] mistakes in flying. But this time Chorba acted confidently and without any deviations. For this reason the instructor's intervention was not required. Now it was important to reinforce the skills and so Capt Sirotin had the trainee repeat the maneuver in order to practice all elements of the flight until they were automatic.

When practice time ended for Sr Lt Chorba, pilots of Capt S. Vybornov's flight entered the classroom. They had a more difficult task: to practice instrument flying in an en-route flight. They began training precisely on schedule.

"We prepared very carefully for the new training year," said Maj Sitnikov. "We also took account of past deficiencies, for it sometimes happened where organization of the training process left much to be desired, to put it mildly. That same simulator either would stand idle or pilots from several flights would come to a class all together. And it was all because the simulator use schedule was poorly drawn up. Proper supervision over the organization of classes was lacking."

it should be noted that the unit drew proper conclusions. After final inspection they drew up a plan for remedying the deficiencies. A great deal was done here to renew the training facility. The methods council, party committee, experienced specialists and rationalizers took a most active part in this. For example, the aviation equipment classrooms have, in addition to individual cutaway assemblies and components, many electrified displays and diagrams permitting a deeper understanding of the operating principle of onboard systems and more rapid learning of the identification and elimination of possible malfunctions.

Engr-Capt S. Kondratov was holding a class in one of the classrooms. He was using a functioning display which he himself made for a graphic explanation of the design and operating principles of automatic fuel equipment.

In competing in honor of the 26th CPSU Congress, the aviators pledged to achieve new, higher indicators in discipline and combat readiness. Combat training has been going on in an organized manner and in a precise rhythm from the very first classes.

Training Methods Discussed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Dec 80 p 2

[Article by Maj V. Nechitayev, chief of staff of Air Regiment "X," Red Banner Far East Military District: "Adopt Foremost Experience in a Businesslike Manner: Effectiveness of Supervision"]

[Text] The CPSU CC draft for the 26th party congress states that exactingness must be reinforced toward cadres for fulfillment of established quotas, for high efficiency and precision in work and for strict observance of planning discipline. This obligates each of us officer-managers to perform a more thorough analysis of achievements in training and service and to combine capably the supervision and assistance in the struggle for higher levels of combat improvement.

The first month of the winter combat training now is concluding. What kind of month was it? Is everything we planned being implemented successfully? The summer training plan was fulfilled in the basic indicators. The squadron commanded by Lt Col Yu. Onufritsov achieved higher results. Here even the young aviators mastered flying for combat application at night under simple weather conditions and began working more difficult assignments in the air.

It is gratifying that an increase in qualitative indicators is noticeable not only in the aforementioned squadron, but in other subunits as well. This is largely facilitated by the precise organization of the training process as well as daily supervision over the quality with which combat training plans are fulfilled.

Some of our crews are retraining on equipment that is new to them. Many difficulties understandably arose. Once some of the young pilots made mistakes in piloting techniques in the take-off and landing. We discussed ways to remedy the deficiencies at a session of the unit methods council. A number of other practical steps also were outlined. They included command flights during which the regimental commander and his deputies carefully checked the methods preparedness of instructors and helped them master fire skills in flight training. A useful

conversation about raising the quality of air schooling also took place at a practical flying conference. Officers of the unit staff took an active part in organizing and conducting these activities.

The staff has to influence many aspects of the personnel's work during combat training. We place primary emphasis on ensuring the organization of military labor and all military service by the regulations. It is this aspect of the matter that is the deciding condition in the struggle for effectiveness of socialist competition, an increase in combat readiness and a growth in flying expertise. I will refer to the following example.

In mastering practice bombing against ground targets, staff officers thoroughly studied the abundant experience of navigators in the regiment with which we are competing and adopted all the most rational elements in training methodology. But they also decided to check out some things carefully before using them for themselves. For example, is it necessary to give preference to the method of visual sighting if the equipment's capabilities permit delivery of an accurate strike in the automatic mode?

The analysis was followed by the staff's practical and organizational work. In addition to other activities, we envisaged in the plan of classes with flight personnel a number of topics for equipment study. To raise the effectiveness of practices, the staff drew up a full schedule for simulator use and established strict supervision over its implementation. At the same time, we stepped up work to adopt foremost experience. Capt B. Zabelin, the regiment's best bombardier, shared the "secrets" of accurate hits on target with all flight personnel. Many navigators adopted his methodology of working with the automatic gear. At the staff officers' suggestion, a special display was set up on the aircraft hardstand for graphic effect. During a flight section it promptly reflects bombing results received from the range and indicates the progress of competition. The publicity and comparability of indicators achieved raised the people's spirit of combat competitiveness.

Recently several crews from our regiment and from the neighboring unit with which we are competing held a bombing contest. The conditions were identical, and how about the results? All our crews received outstanding grades, but our rivals' indicators were more modest. It follows that our methodology of preparing navigators proved more effective in the test.

Exacting supervision over the quality of flight training of course contributed to the success.

Air-To-Air Missile Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Dec 80 p 1

[Article by Lt Col Kh. Kastuyev, 1st class military pilot, GSFG: "Missile-Armed Aircraft Lift Off"]

[Text] The predawn sky, which was beginning to show red above the airfield, resounded with the roar of aircraft engines. Being among the first to take off, Maj A. Zemlyakov, the squadron's political officer, estimated the situation rapidly and calculatingly. The bad weather conditions, which meant certain advantages of tactical surprise, were on the side of the air "enemy" rushing toward the defended object.

Officer Zemlyakov realized this and acted with initiative. Each maneuver the 1st class pilot performed was distinguished by expertise and a will to win. Then a characteristic blip appeared on the sight screen. After that the "enemy" aircraft, flying in the clouds, changed course and altitude, but did not succeed in getting out from under a strike. The interceptor's very first attack was stunning.

This is but one episode out of the training routine. The present days have a special sign: the personnel's high aspiration for a worthy greeting to the 26th party congress in competition. And the squadron commander and his political deputy are seeing to it that the experience of the best becomes the property of all personnel from the very first days of the new training year. On this day, too, the right-flankers of competition generously shared their knowledge with their colleagues.

As soon as Maj Zemlyakov had performed the flying assignment, he hastened to tell Sr Lt S. Knyazev about the features of the aerial duel. The young officer was noticeably agitated. He was to make his first solo flight to intercept a target in the clouds aboard a variable geometry wing [VGW] aircraft. The businesslike tone of the narrative and the political officer's concrete advice inspired confidence in him and soon an announcement was heard over the radio newspaper that Knyazev had hit the target with the first attack.

Sr Lt Ye. Ionkin acted differently. He has many intercepts under difficult conditions to his credit. The success apparently generated self-complacency in him and this is what let the pilot down. Seeing blips from two aircraft on the sight screen, Ionkin did not bother analyzing the situation, and so he did not manage to attack the given target in time. It was already impossible to correct the negligence, for the missile-armed aircraft was flying at supersonic speed.

Capt A. Kartenichev, the deputy squadron commander, posted the flight recording in a prominent place and explained to the pilots where Sr Lt Ionkin's mistake lay. Capt S. Urbas, party organization secretary, also drew a conclusion from the incident. The party collective demanded a strict accounting of those party members who relax attention to their combat schooling and violate flying laws.

High-quality performance of assignments in the air and flight safety also are ensured through the concerted, capable work of aviation engineering service specialists and specialists of rear service subunits.

Competition inspires a spirit of collectivism and troop comradeship in the aviators. Take, for example, senior lieutenants of technical service A. Zakharov, V. Morev, V. Morozov and A. Kondratenko, technicians of outstanding aircraft. After preparing their missile-carrying aircraft for a sortie, they willingly assist their young colleagues and pass on to them the most rational work techniques. This efficient method for disseminating experience of competition leaders was discussed at a party bureau session and an attempt was made to adopt it. The result was that Lt Tech Serv V. Smirnov and Lt Tech Serv V. Zayev saw to it that the aircraft assigned them also became outstanding. Now more than half of the combat craft in the squadron have been recognized with the sign of quality.

I would also like to say a good word about the precise action during a flight section by personnel of the separate airfield technical support battalion commanded by Lt Col Ye. Konechnyy. The weather is changeable in these parts at this time of

year. Prior to flights the rains changed into a heavy, wet snow. Special equipment drivers, headed by Sr Lt S. ..rasota and WO V. Yefimenko, prepared the airfield for flying on time and the weather reconnaissance aircraft lifted off into the gloomy sky exactly at the designated time. For the second year in a row this battalion is winning the title of outstanding.

The aviators are studying the CPSU CC draft for the 26th party congress with great attention and are working under the motto "For high combat readiness and firm military discipline."

Fighter-Bomber Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Dec 80 p 1

[Article by Lt Col Yu. Rudin: "With the First Missile"]

[Text] Supporting the initiative of guards aviators of the Red Banner Bomber Regiment, personnel of Fighter Unit "X" outlined new goals for themselves in the pre-congress competition. They were high goals. Now they had to adopt all the best achieved last year. It was difficult for the unit aviators. Some pilots had retrained on a type of missile-carrying aircraft new to them. Experienced aerial fighting men were mastering new tactics and placing young aviators in formation. There were many difficulties, but the unit collective still managed to fulfill its pledges fully.

Strenuous combat training is going on in the unit these days. The aviators' air schooling is growing stronger, as is their ability to destroy the air enemy throughout the entire range of altitudes and speeds, in any sector and in any tactical and weather situation.

Flying duty knows no breathers. The aviators continue to accomplish difficult operational training missions under all conditions. And that was how it was in this flight section. The weather abruptly worsened and the sky over the range was covered with dense clouds. Such conditions were extremely difficult for many pilots in the unit. The "enemy" made capable use of the weather conditions to penetrate to the defended object, and screened by jamming just to be sure. The pilots were warned about a possible disabling of the automated control system (this happens in battle) and of a shift to conventional guidance.

The pilots were impatient to test their abilities in the difficult attack of a small-size target, especially since, under exercise conditions, they had to attack at a high closing rate. There were many who wished to be first to begin the "battle count." But what was important here was a vivid example of a striking attack, so to speak, which had to end in victory without fail. The commander rested his choice on military pilot 1st Class Maj Yu. Polyanskiy. He had mastered this type of modern missile-carrying aircraft earlier than the others and had performed many dozens of successful intercepts in it. Moreover, Party Member Polyanskiy was in charge of the unit methods council and he now had an opportunity to demonstrate graphically to the young men those attack techniques which he himself fervently advised them to master and which he taught his subordinates.

He performed the intercept in a truly brilliant manner, although there were moments when it was possible to lose the initiative. The need to shift to manual guidance modes arose immediately after take-off. Then, when the target already had been detected, jamming filled the radar sight screen. The target disappeared while he was tuning away from it, but the skilled aerial fighter again located it and "guided" it until lock-on. He launched the missile confidently at the established distance. The officer immediately took the fighter out of the attack. A repeat attack was not required: The target had been destroyed with the first missile.

This success inspired everyone. Maj Polyanskiy told of the conditions for performing the intercept and actions in response to narrative problems. The fighters took off one after the other. Conditions and nature of the narrative problem changed, but one thing remained the same: Each aviator returned with a victory. The raid on the defended object was repulsed with heavy losses for the "enemy."

B he did not give up attempts to destroy the object. The raid renewed with the onset of darkness. Intercepts at night under difficult weather conditions are the most difficult, and so the commander again sent up the masters of combat application first. Captains A. Glushakov, I. Pertot and V. Frank coped with their mission and demonstrated to all flight personnel that neither the darkness of night nor the dense, multilayered clouds were hindrance to capable aerial fighters. The targets were detected at maximum range from the defended object and also hit with the first attack and the first missile.

The unit's aviators dedicated their success in these flights to the upcoming party forum. The crews' high level of air schooling inspires a firm conviction that the aviators will greet the 26th CPSU Congress with new achievements in combat training.

Lack of Trainer Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Sep 80 p 2

[Letter by Jr Sgt A. Potorocha and commentary by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col Zakharenko: "No Trainer, No Class"]

> [Text] Dear Editors! Almost a half-year already has gone by since our group of young aviation specialists was assigned to another subunit. And during all this time it is as if we were apart from combat training. Neither classes nor practices are held with us.
>
> At our previous station we had an opportunity to improve special skills and raise our class rating. But now we are more engaged in performing various kinds of housekeeping work. We realize that this is also necessary, but at the same time we would like to work on the primary element required in our specialty.
>
> Jr Sgt A. Potorocha.

I am chatting with subunit commander Capt A. Rud'. He does not deny that there are deficiencies in organization of the training process. Moreover, he himself emphasizes that the aviation specialists called upon to prepare equipment for flights need regular practices.

Then what hinders this? Officer Rud', who is far from indifferent toward special training of his subordinates and, as his many years of service attest, is capable of organizing it, puts me in the picture. It turns out that the mess which arose is explained above all by the fact that the subunit where several of the specialists now serve, including Jr Sgt Potorocha, has no appropriate practice set of trainer equipment. Higher staff workers did not concern themselves with this. It turned out that some junior aviation specialists still lack proper training. In this case, just how can they receive authorization to work on the combat equipment?

The subunit commander turned to command headquarters in this regard. Two and a half months ago he also sent a written request there to provide training equipment which was practically impossible to make with his own resources. But the ball is still in their court, as they say.

I familiarized myself with the class schedule. Of the five two-hour integrated practices which Capt Rud', Sr Lt N. Akhmadullin and WO V. Osipenko were supposed to conduct, not one was held. It is true that during this time some of the aviation specialists still took part in preparing aviation equipment for flights. But these were the most experienced persons. They coped rather well with the assigned job, although they worked at reduced strength. The remaining personnel were engaged in work not connected with performing their immediate duties.

In short, the training time which the class schedule envisaged for practices is not being used for its purpose. It is apparent that this does not cause any special concern in unit staff officers or chiefs of services responsible for training the group of junior aviation specialists. It would appear that not everything has been done to organize classes and practices in this subunit itself. The fact is that even in the absence of trainer equipment it would be possible to make better use of the dozens of training hours; for example, by using the cutaway model standing alone in the classroom and other equipment of the training facility for this purpose.

But judging from everything, people have reconciled themselves here with shortcomings in the specialists' training. It is as if they don't notice that some soldiers have noticeably lagged behind their colleagues in professional schooling. And with regard to unused reserves in organizing training, as deputy unit commander Lt Col A. Samoylyuk explained, this mat... is being studied. Frankly speaking, this is a vague, evasive answer.

The chief of service from command headquarters recently visited the subunit. He was from that very service at fault for the subordinates of Capt Rud' not being provided with trainer equipment. But even this officer-manager pays no attention to the existing shortcomings.

Should this really be the approach to matters? It must be assumed that people both in the unit and in command headquarters will seriously ponder this.

Follow-Up Report on Trainer

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Oct 80 p 2

[Article: "Following KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Coverage: 'No Trainer, No Class'"]

[Text] A letter from Jr Sgt A. Potorocha with a commentary by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col A. Zakharenko was published under this title on 7 September. The item criticized shortcomings in the organization of classes with junior aviation specialists of the subunit commanded by Capt A. Rud'.

As the editors were informed by Col V. Yashin, the newspaper item was discussed with managers, specialists of services, and the unit party and Komsomol aktiv. Practical steps were taken to remedy the shortcomings noted. At the present time a trainer has been obtained and regular personnel practices are being conducted. The staff has drawn up a schedule of integrated classes and supervision has been established over specialists' preparation for class ratings.

Missile Training in Arctic

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jan 81 p 2

[Article by Col A. Sorokin: "Party Members in Combat Formation: Lights over the Hummocks"]

[Excerpts] The polar circle remained far behind. With enormous speed, the missile-carrying aircraft continued to pierce the darkness of night, filling the eternal silence of the icy desert with peals of jet thunder. Lt Col Yu. Giunov is flying the aircraft or, rather, automatic equipment is flying it and Yuriy Ivanovich is monitoring its work. From time to time he peers into the frozen darkness of the polar night. In this land of hummocks, silence and the Arctic cold, even the stars somehow twinkle sharp and cold.

The ocean dozes far below, all patched with ice fields and the black zigzags of water reeds. The darkness thickens, but suddenly a greenish flame blazes straight ahead along the course under the North Star. Another instant and it fills half the sky and begins sparkling in all shades of color. Then the silvery spokes of a gigantic wheel glitter in the skies and very wide ribbons intertwine. The picture of the Northern Lights is terribly beautiful. "How about that?!" says Yuriy Ivanovich to the crew navigator.

The navigator is silent, engaged in his calculations. He doesn't have time now for magnetic storms in the upper layers of the atmosphere. And what is so unusual here? The solar wind bears particles from space charged with great energy. They enter into a complex interaction with the earth's magnetic field. A luminescence in black and white or color appears. At first it is interesting to look at, then one becomes accustomed to it as to the constant darkness.

But the pilot admires it. He is enchanted by this spectacle. It helps throw off fatigue from the tiring monotony of the "blind" flight. In such minutes even poetic lines come to mind: "The night. The long polar night. A green fog of radiance..." It is lonely in the silent, cold space without this radiance. And

how desirable the far shore seems! He would like to make a half-turn and set the "golden" pointer of the radiocompass to his homer beacon and cut in the afterburners to where there is firm ground under the wings and a beckoning light in the window.

The missile-carrying aircraft controlled by Giunov approached the given line. The cold but not yet extinguished flame of the aurora still was blazing ahead. Launch! The missile rushed forward, leaving a trail of steam in the freezing air. Its artificial flame instantaneously outshone the cold aurora borealis and shoved back the darkness far about. And in those seconds the sky of the high northern latitude did not appear so eternally silent and stern. It appeared that even the far-off bluish crystal of the hummocks paused for an instant under the hot flame of the missile, the afterburners of the aircraft engines and the brave hearts of the crew.

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TANK TROOPS: TRAINING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Training Results Reviewed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Oct 80 p 2

[Article by Guards Col V. Malitskiy, chief of staff, Guards Tank Zaporozh'ye Division, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Emulating the Best Regiment"]

[Text] Today, in a time when the division staff is analyzing the results and lessons of the training year, the ways for improving efforts to organize competition among the regiments can be seen especially clearly. As experience shows, such competition is becoming an increasingly more effective means for achieving success in the best formation movement. Many of our subunits achieved outstanding results in their final exercises. Units that produced extremely modest results in last year's competition have pulled themselves up noticeably. This attests to the effectiveness of competition between the units, one of the goals of which is to pull all collectives up to the level of the leaders.

It would be useful to look into the past in this connection. Having analyzed the results of the winter training period, we were persuaded that as in the previous year, the gap between the regiment leading the competition and the rest of the formation's units is too large. While some subunits of the rest of the units were unable to reach their goals when put to the test, the best one has raced far ahead.

What is the reason for such a gap, and how do we raise the role of the staff in organizing competition among the units? These questions were brought up for discussion by the headquarters party organization before the start of the summer training period.

"We had turned the attention of the unit commanders and staff once before to the shortcomings in their efforts at introducing advanced skills," the communists noted. But can't the division staff, which holds all of the reins of control, do more than that?

In a word, everything boiled down to the idea that raising the effectiveness of the competition among the regiments and, consequently, increasing our successes in the best formation movement were intimately associated with further improvement of the style of staff work.

Working in close contact with the division's political section, andpartly through the staff party organizations, we strengthened our influence upon the work of the regimental staff in this aspect. We can say without exaggerating that every staff officer, including at division level, is now an active proponent of introducing innovations and improvements into personnel training and indoctrination. And this is quite natural: After all, the subunits and units expect not general directives so much, but concrete help in all areas of their work.

An example of this approach was demonstrated to us by officers of the higher staff, who visited the division at the beginning of the summer training period. At that time we were seriously troubled by the fate of officer technical training in one of the regiments. We were advised to deeply study the way technical training was organized not only in the lagging units, but also in the best collective. The study showed that the contrast in the proficiency of the officers was a consequence of a difference in the approach taken to organizing commander training. While one regiment always made sure that every drill with the officers was prepared in the best way possible and that it would be conducted in conditions close to those of combat, the others relied more on the enthusiasm of the students themselves. Corrections had to be made in the working style of the commander and the regimental staff in relation to organizing officer technical training. Their efforts were directed mainly at creating the necessary conditions in all subunits for improving the military-technical knowledge of the officers, their practical skills in the use of modern equipment and weapons in combat, and their ability to perform their responsibilities.

Such conditions were created. The chiefs of the different arms and services assumed an active part in the technical training of officers of all ranks. Planned lessons with the personnel began to be used with greater effectiveness in order to improve the skills of the platoon and company commanders. The rule now followed in this unit, and in other of the division's units as well, is: The subunit commander is the first to approach the fire line, and the first to complete the driving exercise. This has helped us to raise the effectiveness of competition among officers of neighboring regiments even more. Often studying together on the same fields and with the same trainers, they have a possibility for effectively comparing their results and exchanging their experience, which naturally has a favorable effect on both their professional growth and the proficiency of their subordinates. In particular, one regiment which was somewhat behind in technical training at the beginning of the summer training period noticeably improved itself by the end of the training year, and it even took the lead in regard to some indicators.

Best-unit competitions are going on in every regiment. But how do we determine who is best division-wide, and which unit deserves to have its experience adopted by all others? This is a matter for specialists of the division staff to decide. Much responsibility lies in this connection on the shoulders of political section and staff officers.

The following incident comes to mind. Once the word got out in one of the regiments that a company commanded by Guards Senior Lieutenant A. Stepanov was doing very well. Naturally, the division staff became interested in the subunit. Judging from its scores, the company was in fact ahead of everyone else. It was decided to study Guards Senior Lieutenant Stepanov's experience and, if it was deserving,

to bring it to the awareness of all company commanders. It was revealed, however, in an inspection conducted by division staff officer Guards Lieutenant Colonel V. Yerofeyevskiy that the company's glory was exaggerated. It suffered many cases of laxity and simplifications.

Here is what happened: The company pledged to gain the "outstanding" title and to achieve higher scores in the principal training subjects than the other companies by the end of the year. The commander of the regiment and the staff took Guards Senior Lieutenant Stepanov under their wing. The company thus found itself in better conditions than those faced by the other subunits. It was even offered more time on the practice range. In a word, the regiment was clearly trying to erect a beacon for all to see, though it used the wrong methods. Following the inspection, the appropriate steps were taken to correct the situation. The company commanded by Guards Senior Lieutenant Stepanov began working in the same conditions as everyone else. The effectiveness of competition climbed.

This incident was a good lesson to officers of the political section and staff of the division as well. We began analyzing the course of competition among the subunits and units more objectively, and we started studying the interim results more attentively. This permitted us to promptly detect and eliminate many shortcomings. Our competition on concrete tasks and standards between similar subunits became more active than last year, as is evidenced by the results of, for example, the artillery, signal, reconnaissance, and some other subunits. As an example the artillery battery headed by Guards Captain V. Pilipenko, which was behind last year, climbed to the ranks of the outstanding subunits by the end of the training year. Competition between the unit's similar subunits played a major role in this.

At the same time we do have examples of the other sort as well. Consider at least this fact: One regiment that was quartered next to the division headquarters was in last place last year. And yet staff officers visited this regiment no less rarely than other units. Consequently they did not always penetrate deeply into the state of affairs whenever they suspected shortcomings in training and indoctrination. In particular, the sequence of lessons in officer tactical training was violated in some of the regiment's subunits, which had an unfavorable effect on the results of the final exercise.

Preparing ourselves for the new training year, we have made it our objective to achieve strict continuity in personnel training and to exclude its dissociation from the planned drills. We plan to hold a number of demonstrations for the officers in the near future, using the services of the best regiment, an outstanding one on the basis of the year's results. We would like to use the experience of this regiment to demonstrate to all that the path to success in combat and political training and in the satisfaction of pledges adopted in the precongress competition lies through strict planning discipline, methodological consistency in training tasks, and daily concern for the effectiveness of competition.

There is so much to do to improve the staff's efforts at organizing competition among the units. Our success will depend to a decisive degree on the effectiveness, responsibility, and initiative of each of us--that is, on qualities which Comrade L. I. Brezhnev emphasized in his speech to the October (1980) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee as being significant to communist leaders. Nurturing these

qualities in staff officers is one of the most important prerequisites for success in the movement for best formation during the forthcoming training year.

Battalion Training in GSFG

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Jan 81 p 2

[Article by Correspondent Maj V. Zhitarenko, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "The Regiments Need Masters"]

[Text] The tank battalion commanded by Guards Lieutenant Colonel V. Orlov was given the mission of reaching the flank of approaching "enemy" reserves and containing them until the regiment's main forces arrived. In order to mislead the "enemy" the battalion commander sent two platoons forward. Through aggressive operations, they were to force the opposing side to deploy and engage in combat in conditions unfavorable to it. Meanwhile the battalion's remaining subunits were to keep out of sight, reach the "enemy's" flank, and make a surprise attack on his reserves.

Guards Lieutenant Orlov knew from intelligence data that he would have to cross a marsh, a major obstacle to tanks and other equipment. Nevertheless the battalion commander decided to not change the route. He placed his reliance on the proficiency of his subordinates: Most of the specialists had their 1st and 2d class ranks in the battalion.

Guards Lieutenant Colonel Orlov did not err in his calculations. With the help of an attached engineer subunit the battalion quickly surmounted the obstacle and attacked the "enemy's" flank. This attack predetermined the outcome of the battle.

"The battalion successfully completed a complex mission in many ways owing to the fact that Guards Lieutenant Colonel Orlov displayed tactical proficiency and managed to get the most out of the equipment," Guards Colonel G. Saburov, commander of the Guards Tank Zaporozh'ye Division noted in this regard after observing the actions of the tank crews. This incident once again persuades us that the creativity of a commander in combat and the effectiveness of his tactical thinking are decisively determined by his military-technical training. This is why we make it our objective to nurture more masters such as Guards Lieutenant Colonel Orlov.

This objective is reflected in the pledges adopted by officers and warrant officers in honor of the 26th CPSU Congress. The division's personnel have assumed a highly responsible attitude toward its satisfaction. I had the fortune to visit the division on the day a qualification commission appointed by the senior chief was testing candidates for the master qualification . The best-trained regimental commanders, their deputies, and battalion and company level officers were undergoing a difficult examination under the charge of the formation commander and the chief of the political section. And they passed successfully.

It stands to reason that knowing how to drive a combat vehicle is not enough for a commander. He must also have a perfect knowledge of its fire, maneuver, and speed potential, and he must know how to capitalize on this potential in the fight against the enemy's weapons. The same can also be said for other forms of equipment and armament controlled in combat by a combined-arms commander. Thus the

master qualification presupposes high training in both equipment and tactics. After all, if a commander knows the true potentials of his weapons, if he deeply studies the layout of the vehicles and weapon systems, and if he is able to handle them proficiently, the commander can learn to use these weapons in the best manner possible. This is why the approach to growth of proficiency in the unit rests mainly on the most important yardstick--the yardstick of combat.

Unfortunately this attitude toward raising the tactical gunnery and technical proficiency of officers is still far from universal. For example some units of a certain formation failed to satisfy their pledges last year. One of the reasons for this was the inadequate technical, tactical, and gunnery training of a number of officers. In particular some of them drove combat vehicles and fired guns worse than their subordinates.

Lieutenant Colonel V. Rud', one of the formation's staff officers, was asked: Is there someone in the regiments with a master qualification whose experience could benefit the rest? It turned out that only three officers in the regiments and battalions--lieutenant colonels N. Shalygin and A. Zlobin and Major G. Timofeyev--passed the master tests in the entire training year. The rest did not even make this goal one of their objectives.

Has the situation changed? We find that in this training year as well, not a single officer in any of the division's regiments has pledged to earn the master qualification. The collective pledges of the units call for nothing more than raising the class ratings of specialists. As an example it is written down in one regiment that a certain percentage of specialists are to gain the top class rating in the regiment. What does this mean? It turned out that many officers that have been at their posts for not less than 4 years are still "charging" the specialist 2d class line, or in the best case they have decided to achieve the 1st class rating.

Here is the explanation given at the headquarters of this division:

"An officer's rating and the way he prepares for the master qualification tests is up to the individual."

Now that is a passive position. True, every officer must himself determine the heights to which he will rise in tactical, technical, and other forms of training. But he should also be given assistance in both defining pledges which would be challenging but at the same time within his means, and attaining the goals he chooses. Who but the commanders, political workers, and staff officers, who posness rich experience, are able to do this?

The fight for raising officer proficiency presupposes appropriate organizational work. In order to prepare officers for the master qualification test, in particular, attention should be devoted to this problem every day in the course of commander training. Much depends on how well organized independent study is, and on how clearly the efforts in the regiment at upgrading the professional qualifications of officers are. Raising one's class rating by one degree in 1 or 2 years--experience persuades us that this is the goal upon which training plans should be based.

We obviously need to think about how to stimulate the desire of officers to become masters in a better way. In the best units, for example, such persons are singled out with special distinction. They are perpetually offered opportunities for exchanging experience. Their pictures are posted in the most visible places in the garrison. In a word, a master is a highly respected person in such a unit. And this attitude toward masters helps commanders to mobilize all officers to fight for higher qualifications.

Let me cite Major V. Sokolov as an example. One out of every four officers had the master qualification in the battalion which he had commanded until recently. The battalion commander mandatorily considered this factor when the time came to promote an officer or approve his application for the academy. Preference was always given to a master. I recall how persistently captains N. Kozlov and I. Sibukhin prepared for the master tests. Both achieved their treasured goals, and later they became outstanding battery commanders.

The experience of this battalion and other subunits and units tells us that socialist competition is a powerful means for mobilizing officers and warrant officers to become experts with the equipment and weapons. Best specialist competitions are a great benefit to improving combat proficiency. Competing in concrete tasks and standards, the people enrich one another with their experience and learn the secrets of the specialty. The most important task of all is to diversify the forms of this competition, to make it a powerful means for raising the qualifications of all soldiers. And it is important in this case to introduce the experience of the best units everywhere.

Understandably, much here depends on initiative, efficiency, and a creative search for untilized reserves. This premise, which is considered in the draft report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 26th CPSU Congress, is fully applicable to the struggle for raising the professional skills of officers. Mobilization of all of the reserves for increasing their proficiency is the most important direction in the struggle for successful completion of the tasks of the training year, and satisfaction of the precongress pledges.

Little Use of Simulators Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Lt Col V. Shevchenko and Sr Lt A. Zhukov, Red Banner Odessa Military District: "Forgotten Trainers"]

[Text] Gray clouds of smoke hovered over the tank driving range, and the air shook from the thunder of the engines. The tank battalion commanded by Major A. Volkov had been engaged in a driving drill for an hour and a half already. The driver-mechanics, among whom there were many young ones, were practicing how to surmount various obstacles, first step by step, and then as a single maneuver. But judging from their timid, uncertain actions, many of the driver-mechanics were not ready for the exercise. Captain V. Nedostup, the lesson leader, gave the excuse that few training tanks had been allocated for the drills, and that because of this they were supposedly losing precious training time. Nor was Senior Lieutenant Yu. Strelkov, a supervisor at one of the training places, pleased with the course of the training. This was the second time in a row that his subordinate, driver-mechanic Private V. Popov, was unable to cross the minefield.

"Surely I explained how to do it before: You should switch to lower gear before the obstacle," the senior lieutenant explained, trying to make himself heard over the loud roar of the engine. "Let's try it again."

But the next attempt at threading the tank through the narrow passageway was not graced with success either.

The students made gross errors at other training places as well. They had to repeat the same procedures many times. And time marched on, such that some of the driver-mechanics were only able to complete the driving exercise once.

Most of the tank crews bided their time meanwhile, knowing not what to do with themselves. And yet right next door were the trainers used to teach tank driver-mechanics. They could have been used to thoroughly work out the way to drive a vehicle through various obstacles, and the officers could have observed the actions of the students, and reveal and eliminate the errors. This would have also meant that training time would not be wasted, and engine wear would be significantly reduced.

But the lesson leader, Captain Nedostup, paid no attention to the trainers, as if they did not even exist. The engines continued to work as before, consuming fuel, though the students were essentially unprepared for work with the materiel. The lesson leader preferred the notorious "rote" method over the trainers, no matter what the cost.

The question that naturally arises is how did this come about? After all, these days no one needs to be convinced of the usefulness of trainers. Practice has shown that soldiers of various specialties successfully acquire the habits they need with them. Concurrently both the time required to assimilate combat specialties and the material outlays decrease. In the best units and subunits of the district, for example, young specialists are permitted to work with the equipment only after learning the rudiments on trainers and then passing an exam.

It turned out that the whole problem centered around the fact that some of the officers in the battalion under Major Volkov's command were slow at assimilating progressive training methods, and that they underestimated the role of trainers in the training process. Questions associated with the use of trainers in personnel training are left unanswered in drills and courses of instruction in the commander training system. Making preparations for the new training year, for example, the regiment conducted a number of functions having to do with teaching methods, but the officers never did acquire the necessary habits of using trainers. Thus it is absolutely no accident that some officers prefer to conduct drills without trainers. Hence the results--the tank crews acquire the necessary habits too slowly.

I cannot but recall the lessons of the past training year in this connection. Many tank crews ended up with low scores in the final driving and field firing exercises. The proficiency of some of the officers did not merit distinction either. Thus Lieutenant V. Katukov received an unsatisfactory grade for his driving, and Senior Lieutenant Yu. Zhiblyuk drove his tank poorly. Without a doubt one of the main reasons for the low proficiency of the tank crews is their negligence of trainers.

What is the position of the regimental staff in these issues? The following facts attract attention. Monitoring the training progress, staff officers rarely show concern for how much the lesson leaders use training resources when teaching their subordinates.

Here is a typical example. A motion picture trainer used to teach driver-mechanics is installed in one of the classrooms of the unit's training building. In the words of laboratory assistant Warrant Officer A. Pasechnik, the most complex situations could be created for students at will by a lesson leader with the motion picture trainers, and tank crews could acquire practical habits without going out into the field. This was the opinion held by most officers we talked to as well. But the classroom containing the equipment is locked up, and it is only opened for inspectors. The last lesson, according to the training log, was held in July of the past year. Is this not an indication of the sort of attitude the regimental staff officers have toward the use of the trainer?

The regiment's party committee also assumed a passive position in regard to the use of trainers. Quite recently the party committee discussed the goals of the unit's communists associated with improving the training process. Communist Nedostup was placed under scrutiny in this meeting as well. Speakers said a great deal about the positive things in his efforts to train and indoctrinate the personnel, and they noted the shortcomings. But this is indicative: Not a single word was uttered about the fact that Communist Nedostup and, incidentally, some other officers in the unit, understated the value of trainers.

Discussing the use of trainers in the regiment, we need to dwell on the following details as well. There are many technical training resources in the unit. They are mainly concentrated in classrooms. We think that they should also be set up at the tank firing and driving ranges, and at the field shooting range. This would help subunit commanders to make more-sensible use of every field exercise. Life also compels us to conclude that officers should be taught more objectively how to use the trainers more effectively. This would be one of the dependable ways for raising the quality and effectiveness of combat training.

River Crossing Described

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Dec 80 p 1

[Article by Sr Lt A. Tsvik, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Underwater Engineers"]

[Text] Senior Lieutenant V. Doroshchin was brief in his description of the mission to his subordinates: "The tank subunit is to cross a river on the move. The underwater reconnaissance platoon is ordered to scout out the water obstacle, and find and disarm the 'enemy's' mines. After this they are to be in readiness to aid the crews in the event of unforeseen circumstances...."

The platoon began its work on the training subject. The first diver, Private S. Kozhevnikov, disappeared into the water. He looked like a superman from a science fiction novel. Incidentally if we consider the difficulty and importance of the work of the scouts, we would be quite right in calling them supermen of the river deep.

Many of those in the subunit graduated from a DOSAAF school before joining the army. I took a look at the personal diving logs of privates S. Kozhevnikov and Yu. Kuznetsov. One had clocked 184 hours beneath the water, and the other had accrued 176. Senior Lieutenant Doroshchin was credited with more than 400 hours. Consider this in light of the fact that every dive is hard work, sometimes associated with a certain amount of risk. In real combat, underwater engineers will have to deal with anchored, bottom, floating, and other mines intended to destroy crossing equipment, and for creation of minefields across fords and along banks. And they must always be ready to act in a complex situation.

Junior Sergeant L. Orlov and his subordinates spent several hours beneath the water in a recent exercise. They cleared the river bottom before deployment of crossing resources. The current was so swift that despite the 32 kilograms on their weight belts, the scouts found it difficult to stay vertical. They had to work suspended horizontally, but they did manage to execute the order right on time.

One can imagine the situation on the river bottom at this moment. The divers had to make their way by touch. They could orient themselves only by signals from their boat.

Back in the old days, scouts determined the width and depth of the river by measuring the distance across the water surface. Naturally the bottom topography was not accounted for. Consequently all the figures were just estimates. Now however, this is all done with a river scouting apparatus that was approved by the soldiers themselves. The apparatus recalls an ordinary sled with a measuring wheel between the runners. The apparatus is rolled over the bottom. All that can be seen from above is a pole with a lamp secured to it. This lamp lights up after a certain number of revolutions of the measuring wheel. Simple, quick, and accurate.

The platoon commander held a stopwatch. He carefully recorded the work results of each subordinate.

The minefield was cleared away. But the scenario inputs continued to arise: "An evacuated crew has abandoned a flooded tank with its transmission engaged. The crossing has been bombed, and there are craters on the bottom...." Once again the engineering scouts sped into action in order to insure a swift crossing of the river by approaching subunits.

At such moments it is especially important to comply with the safety measures. This is why Senior Lieutenant Doroshchin announced scenario inputs such as the following so frequently: "Halt. The air outlet has been damaged." What could this lead to in a real situation? Water would get into the regenerating cartridge, and a reaction would occur. An untrained individual might panic. But Senior Lieutenant Doroshchin's subordinates acted confidently. On receiving the input, the scout tried to take shallow breaths as he took a few steps away from the object of his work to an even patch of bottom, where he tugged his signal wire: "Lift me up."

Observing the actions of my comrades, the engineering scouts, I recalled the words of my father. A former tank driver and a Hero of the Soviet Union, he often said to me:

"If I had my way, I'd dedicate a monument to the river divers. We could never have crossed any rivers without them.... Once our tank ended up under water. We did not have any underwater breathing gear. One could imagine how we felt, sitting in the tank with the water already up to chest level. Divers quickly went into action, freeing both the crew and the vehicle from disaster."

And as we see, the scouts of the river depths are honorably continuing the glory of the frontliners.

Battalion Training in Odessa MD

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jul 80 p 2

[Article by Correspondent Lt Col V. Shevchenko, Red Banner Odessa Military District: "Forgotten Lessons"]

[Text] This was a very important exercise for the tank crews. The crews, which contained many new faces, came to the artillery training school to work on a number of combat standards, and learn what to do when firing at targets of opportunity and moving targets. The officers were afforded a possibility for determining the most typical shortcomings in the training of the subordinates, so that they could organize individual work with them more objectively.

The day before the battalion underwent a demonstration. Now that the officers were aware of the best procedures, it seemed that they would be able to conduct the tank firing exercise with high effectiveness, and reveal the proficiency of each crew. But these hopes did not bear out. Few adhered to the recommended procedures. Company commander Lieutenant A. Kram, for example, completely ignored these recommendations. All crews opened fire together at his command, and it was practically impossible to determine who made mistakes. The officer only noted the general shortcomings. Incidentally, even if he had tried to determine the effectiveness of the separate crews, it would have been impossible for him to do so, since in certain shifts all of the tanks fire at the same target simultaneously.

There was a lot of noise, but little benefit. The exercise ended, but the tank crews never did acquire the necessary habits. Nor did some of the commanders, it seemed. Take as an example the training place supervised by Junior Sergeant V. Kirichenko, where the crews practiced dismantling and assembling the machinegun. He himself was unable to climb above even a satisfactory score in his attempt. Other sergeants and officers supervising the lessons of the training places did not fare better either.

Observing all of this, I could not help recalling an incident that occurred in the unit a few months ago during a demonstration. Noting that one of the members of a tank crew was loading the gun incorrectly, a senior supervisor observing the exercise asked the tank commander to demonstrate. But the sergeant worked no better than his subordinate. Nor were officers Senior Lieutenant S. Chernyagin and Captain A. Palatov able to fulfill the loader's responsibilities. Only

Major Ganyushkin managed to load the gun according to all the rules. Need I say more? Only that I am amazed that this objective lesson went forgotten, and the shortcomings the regiment suffered in winter are repeating themselves now.

I visited the training center in the concluding phase of winter training. It would seem that everything should have been done to insure that the drills would be conducted effectively and well. But even at this critical time there were disappointing failures. Once a battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel V. Yarmolenko came to the training center. It arrived on time. But it was unable to begin its firing exercise. It turned out that the firing range had been prepared for a demonstration, and it would have been impossible to redeploy the targets in accordance with the conditions of the exercise in which the battalion was to participate. Lieutenant Colonel Yarmolenko tried to persuade the chief of the training center that he had reserved the firing range earlier, that this was disrupting the training schedule, and that the battalion had certain responsibilities it had to perform, but all in vain. Senior Lieutenant V. Zalesskiy would not budge: He was fulfilling an order from higher headquarters to the letter--no one was to be allowed onto the firing range.

About an hour later the motorized infantrymen did finally gain permission to begin firing, though not at the firing range but somewhere near it. Moreover they had to perform not the planned exercise but a beginning firing exercise which the battalion had already gone through long ago.

Nor were Major V. Sannikov's subordinates able to fire from their armored personnel carriers that day at the time indicated on the schedule, even though the targets had been prepared for them beforehand. Their training was delayed because someone did not cordon off the area in time.

Much training time was lost due to all sorts of administrative foul-ups. This could not but have an effect on the proficiency of the personnel, and particularly on the training of the commanders. The shortcomings in commander training afforded to officers at platoon and company level--a result of many inadequacies in the way training was organized--were discussed long ago at a meeting of the district's military council. The unjustified losses of time at the training center were discussed in the article "Lost Minutes" published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 4 March. But there are no noticeable improvements to be seen today. The foul-ups keep happening.

Recently I visited the training center several times. I should note that I rarely encountered any of the formation staff officers there. And yet they could have quickly resolved many of the problems on the spot, made the necessary corrections in the plans, and insured a smooth rhythm in the training. Moreover these problems may not even have arisen, had the division staff organized strict control over combat training in the units. At the moment this control is clearly lacking.

I also visited the formation after the editor's office received a response to the above-mentioned critical article published on 4 March. This response was signed by the deputy chief of the district's political directorate, Colonel A. Ovcharenko, and the deputy chief of the district's combat training directorate, Major General M. Nosenko. It states that steps have been taken to correct the shortcomings

noted in the newspaper. The obvious question is: What kind of steps, if such disorganization is still plaguing the training center?

Tactical Exercise Described

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian signed to press 21 Nov 80, No 12, Dec 80 pp 4-5

[Article by Tank Commander Guards Sgt O. Yun, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and Commentary by Battalion Commander Guards Maj V. Kolyadenko: "The Tank in the Attack"]

[Text] Competing for an honorable welcome to the 26th CPSU Congress, our subunit's tank crews are striving, in these days of intense winter combat training, to fulfill every training task, every combat standard and, in general, the entire complex of training programs and plans effectively and with high quality. Evidence of this can be found, for example, in a recently held battle drill exercise on the subject "The Tank in the Offensive".

The tank platoon moved out for the forming-up place. During this time the tank crews practiced repelling a surprise "enemy" attack, and the standards of protection against mass destruction weapons.

On arriving at their appointed place, the platoon commander announced the subject of the drill and the training goals, recalled the conditions of the competition on tasks and standards, and ordered the tank commanders to begin working on the training problems: advancing a tank to the start line; surmounting obstacles at the "enemy's" forward edge of defense; attacking the "enemy's" forward edge of defense.

I issued my operation order to the crew (see diagram):

"Reference points: the first--trig point, the second--rock mound, the third--Zheltaya Hill, the fourth--Dlinnaya Hill.

"The 'enemy' forward edge of defense extends along the southern slope of Ploskaya and Zheltaya hills, and westward from there. The locations of enemy fire weapons are: right 50 of reference point 1, tank pit; left 100 of reference point 1--machinegun. There is a minefield at the forward edge.

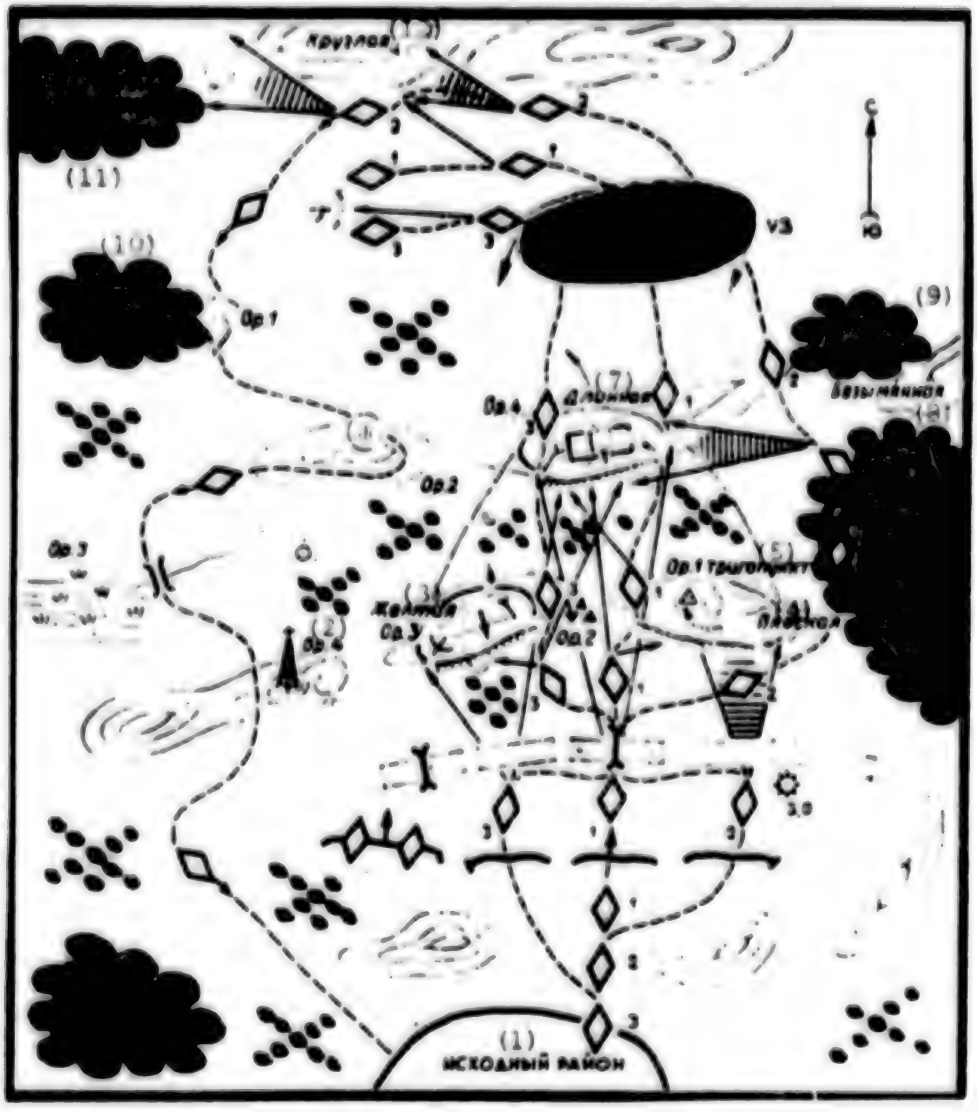
"The mission of our platoon is to annihilate the 'enemy's' fire weapons and manpower on Ploskaya Hill, and subsequently advance in the direction of Dlinnaya Hill. Our passageway through the minefield is No 3.

"The tank platoon commander will advance on our left toward the western slope of Ploskaya Hill and the summit of Dlinnaya Hill. Our tank will advance toward brush-covered mound 3.0, annihilate the 'enemy' tank pit and infantry on Ploskaya Hill in coordination with the tank platoon commander, and subsequently advance toward the lone tree and the east slope of Dlinnaya Hill. We will provide fire support to the tank platoon commander on surmounting the minefield.

"Be ready to advance today at 0900 hours.

"Signals: attack--'Storm', airborne enemy--"Air", radioactive, chemical, or biological contamination--'Atom'.

"The gun layer is my assistant."



Key:

1. Forming-up place
2. Reference point
3. Zheltaya
4. Ploskaya
5. Trig point
6. Lesnaya
7. Dlinnaya
8. Bezymyannaya
9. Gorelaya Grove
10. Redkaya Grove
11. Dal'nyy Forest
12. Kruglaya

Next I formed my subordinates into a column of one, assumed a position to the right of the gun layer, and gave the signal "Storm". There was once a time when I placed myself at the front of the formation in battle drill exercises, feeling that the commander should lead his subordinates in the indicated attack direction. This resulted in several errors. First, I deprived the driver-mechanic of the independence he should have in combat. After all, it is the driver-mechanic who is responsible for selecting the vehicle's route and create conditions permitting the gun layer to maintain accurate fire or, as tankmen say, he is responsible for "blazing the trail." In this particular case I usurped the position of the driver-mechanic. Moreover as I moved in the front of the column, I was unable to see the actions of my students, and naturally I could not score them objectively or note their shortcomings.

The driver-mechanic, Guards Private R. Gurbanov, competently capitalized on the terrain's protection to lead the crew in the indicated direction of attack. At this moment a target simulating the tank pit was raised on Ploskaya Hill in response to a signal from the platoon commander. But not all students reacted to it. This meant that observation of the battlefield was poor.

I drew the crew to a halt, and pointed out that certain tankmen, focusing their attention on tactics, completely forgot about fire preparation. I ordered the gun layer to give a target indication. Private R. Nazirov reported in a loud voice:

"Reference point 1, right 50, tank pit, 1200."

"Tank pit, 1200, on the move, fire!" I commanded, purposefully not stating the type of ammunition to be used. By doing so I reduced my talking time on the tank intercom. Moreover I was certain that my subordinates were well aware of the specifications of the probable enemy's combat equipment and weapon, and that they would be able to determine what to use on their own--an armor-piercing shell or a fragmentation grenade. I was right. Private Nazirov called out the type of ammunition to be used correctly.

Meanwhile the platoon approached the passage through the minefield. Here the driver-mechanic made a serious error. He turned the vehicle's side in the direction of "enemy" fire. Moreover he failed to increase his speed as he assumed the present direction of attack.

I immediately drew the crew to a halt, indicated the shortcomings, and gave orders to repeat this procedure, though this time in the reverse direction. This is a training technique we have used for a long time in our subunit. We call it the shuttle method. It permits us to make effective use of training time, without wasting the latter on extra movements. Thus the shortcomings in the course of the exercise were corrected by repetition.

A target simulating an antitank guided missile was raised on Dlinnaya Hill as the crew approached the enemy's forward edge of defense. Soon after, we heard a dull thud and saw a rising cloud of smoke. This simulated launching of the guided missile.

The gun layer immediately gave his target indication. He did the right thing. But the driver-mechanic did not react to the input--he continued to move in the same direction. Had this happened in real combat, our tank would have been a convenient target. It would not have been very difficult for an experienced enemy launcher to hit it with the first launching. In this situation what he should have done was to immediately maneuver the vehicle out of the zone of fire. Moreover the conditions for doing so were good: A dense thicket stood before the "enemy" forward edge of defense, creating a natural screen. All the driver-mechanic had to do was turn the tank a little to the right, and it would have become a difficult target.

After holding a brief critique I led the crew back several meters. I ordered the driver-mechanic to perform his antimissile maneuver and halt in the brush, where he was to assess the protective properties of the terrain. The soldiers were persuaded that the tank would be concealed dependably not only from the antitank guided missile launcher but also the "enemy" fire weapons deployed on the forward edge of defense.

Next, according to the drill plan, our crew was to bypass the "enemy" emplacement on the right, and jointly with other crews annihilate the antitank guided missile launcher, fire weapons, and infantry on Dlinnaya Hill. I gave the appropriate orders to my subordinates.

Throughout the entire exercise I tried to maintain a spirit of rivalry among the tankmen, and a desire to completely satisfy personal pledges. For this purpose I promptly summarized the results of each phase, I rewarded the best soldiers and singled them out as examples, and I made sure that all mistakes were corrected. I was pleased to see that competition during the exercise promoted fast and deep assimilation of the training material, and that the efficiency with which the results were summarized, the visuality and comparability of the results, and the limelight afforded to the best soldiers had a most favorable effect on training quality. It was no accident that the crew's hard work earned a score of "outstanding". The tankmen acquired the necessary habits of offensive combat.

Commentary

Guards Sergeant O. Yun's article correctly implies that good teamwork in a crew and, in the end, in a subunit as a whole depends entirely on good individual training of the tank crewmembers. Their training level is constantly improved in the course of all training. But I would like to emphasize that tactical drills in which the focus is on practicing the actions of individual crews, and junior commanders act as exercise leaders, play a special role. After all, tactics is a training subject which is closely associated by its very nature with other training disciplines: gunnery, engineering, and physical training, and combat vehicle driving. Thus there is great significance to integrating various training subjects in tactical exercises.

We can see that Guards Sergeant Yun did some thinking about how to make the most of each training minute. The members of his crew were able to learn how to observe the battlefield, indicate targets, use observation instruments, prepare equipment for combat use, and seek protection against mass destruction weapons.

Let me add a few words about the concluding phase of the exercise. There is a route marked on the diagram (on the left side) for travel by reference points. The crews return by this route to the forming-up place after all training problems are fully worked out. In dismounted tank training, sergeants teach their subordinates how to travel with a compass and a map which they themselves draw up on the basis of their own reconnaissance data, and they practice the techniques of measuring the elevations of different targets. And as they move from one reference point to another the crewmembers observe the terrain, and fire at targets of opportunity. This is yet another element of integration.

On the whole, Sergeant Yun's experience in organizing a battle drill exercise is interesting, and therefore it should be brought to the attention of other junior commanders.

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AIR DEFENSE FORCES: TRAINING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Department Chief on Political Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Dec 80 p 2

[Article by Col Gen S. Bobylev, member of military council, chief of political directorate of National Air Defense Forces: "Precongress Reflections: Depth of Analysis"]

[Text] The CPSU CC draft for the 26th party congress entitled "Basic Directions of the USSR's Economic and Social Development for 1981-1985 and for the Period up to 1990," published in the press and presented for nationwide discussion, generated high patriotic enthusiasm in Army and Navy personnel. With a profound realization of their duty, air defense personnel are preparing to greet the 26th congress of the Leninist Party with new achievements in strengthening economic and defense might of the Motherland. The results of their selfless military labor are apparent above all in results of the training year just ended, which attests to a further increase in combat readiness of subunits and units and to the heightened schooling of personnel.

That which was achieved became possible largely thanks to an improvement in the work style of commanders and political officers and to their ability to analyze thoroughly the processes occurring in troop units, to draw proper conclusions therefrom, and to determine correctly and make active use of the most effective means, techniques and methods of work. The National Air Defense Forces military council and political directorate show daily concern that the work style of our commanders and political entities bears an imaginative character, assumes high exactingness on the part of each officer and general toward himself and others, and precludes subjectivism, self-satisfaction, or the manifestation of bureaucratism and formalism.

Our troops have highly qualified cadres. Some 90 percent of the officers are party members and 95 percent of commanders of surface-to-air missile [SAM], aviation and radiotechnical units have a higher military or military specialized education. All unit and subunit commanders and over 70 percent of political officers are specialists of a high class or masters of a combat specialty.

A thorough and comprehensive study and understanding of troop practice is an important element in the organizational and political work of officer cadres. The

essence of a phenomenon never lies on the surface. As a rule, one has to "dig down" to it, relying on analysis and generalization. This is the source of mature decisions and well-conceived measures in the interests of further improving the state of affairs in units and subunits. Always current for us is Lenin's demand: "More and more concreteness in studying local experience, details, small points, practice, job experience; and a thorough study of real life..." A contemporary manager is inconceivable without an analytic cast of thinking, without an ability to make a thorough study of the life and work of military collectives, and without the capability to generalize complex processes, events and phenomena occurring within them.

The work of the political department of Combined Unit "X" is indicative in this respect. The officers here not only are capable of recognizing a new phenomenon, but also of comprehending more deeply the development trend of processes occurring in units and subunits, seeing the long-range prospects, actively influencing the development of everything positive, and promptly eradicating causes of negative phenomena.

When indicators in combat and political training and in competition began to drop in one of the units, the political department decided to look into the reasons for this phenomenon. The political department officers' work began with an analysis of the training and indoctrination process in lagging subunits. Everything in the subunit where Capt V. Klitnyy is political deputy appeared to have been done correctly: Class schedules precisely defined the organization and content of the training process and there were many meaningful activities in political indoctrination work plans. But detailed discussions with the people indicated that activities often were disrupted and, if they were held, it was without proper preparation, hastily, and at a low level.

Serious deficiencies also were uncovered in the organization of the training process. The class schedule still had not become law. Proper supervision was not being exercised over the preparations by officers, warrant officers and NCO's for classes. Shortcomings were uncovered in training the leading specialists.

Similar omissions, albeit to a lesser extent, were inherent to other subunits as well. What can explain this? The political department officers found the answer to this question as well. It turned out that the unit commander, political officer and staff officers rarely visited remote subunits and did not know the true state of affairs there with combat training and discipline.

Political department officers held a thorough critique and provided on-the-spot help in remedying many deficiencies. Participants of the unit party aktiv meeting were familiarized with their conclusions, recommendations and proposals, and they also were discussed at a seminar of party organization secretaries. Supervision of fulfillment of the recommendations and instructions followed all this. The concreteness and purposefulness of the political department's work and the deep penetration into the essence of the phenomena permitted changing the state of affairs in the unit. The missilemen returned from the range with a high grade. The unit received a grade of "good" in the final inspection.

An objective analysis is possible only in the presence of extensive, reliable information about all aspects of military collectives' life and work. The primary

source of this analysis is a direct study of the training and indoctrination process and competition in units and subunits. Memorandums, reports or telephone calls cannot provide the same reliable idea of the state of affairs as contact with a broad range of party members and all categories of personnel. A study of planning documents also is important. Each of them, as Comrade L. I. Brezhnev said at the October 1980 CPSU CC Plenum, should "represent a substantiated plan of action resting on precise calculations and aimed at the final result and total resolution of a particular problem."

Again and again, practical experience confirms that in planning visits to troop units, we must adhere to Lenin's "better less, but better." The report-election meeting in the political directorate recently gave a figure on how many problems we had studied during the year. The figure appeared to be fully realistic, but still the party members arrived at the unanimous opinion that it would best be reduced in the future so as to have an opportunity to make a deeper study of the state of affairs in the units and combined units. It must be said that this is no simple matter. It requires a precise definition of the goal, well-conceived plans and work methodology in the outlying areas, and an imaginative, responsible attitude toward the work. It is not difficult to collect positive or negative facts. The important point is to learn the reasons for particular phenomena and the extent of their influence on the state of affairs in the collective. Without this, it is difficult to expect a good result from one's work. Superficial impressions often lead to erroneous evaluations and conclusions.

How much we lose at times because of the sorry excuse for inspectors who admire themselves when they find an "inspector's fact" and revel in presenting it "eloquently" at the critique. Some workers of political entities and staffs see their main role to lie in discovering negative aspects, while their remedy is a matter for others. As a rule, such inspectors do not enjoy authority or respect among the troops.

The more complex and many-sided a phenomenon is, the more time and effort is required for its study, but this is not always considered. Officer D. Kuzovkov, a worker in one of the political departments, was assigned to look into an important problem of ensuring flight safety by spending 1-1½ days working in each unit including the time for going from post to post. It is naturally difficult to count on success with this approach to matters.

But it is also possible to spend much time but see nothing in the life of a subunit. Officers V. Pchel'nikov and V. Tolmazov spent 20 days at a site studying the organization of the training and indoctrination process and competition. But they didn't notice any serious deficiencies at all in the indoctrination work or in the personnel's everyday living. Even before the officers managed to leave, a crude infraction of military order occurred in the subunit as a result of omissions on which their gaze had not rested.

The well-known thesis of "to manage means to foresee" has an especially deep meaning for military cadres. The value of analysis lies in the fact that it permits one to evaluate the state of affairs not only for today, but to forecast events and actively influence their progress.

You might ask an air unit commander or political worker: "What are the reasons for preconditions for flying incidents?" and unfortunately, you do not always receive a detailed answer. In the best instance they will mention, for example, how many preconditions there were through the fault of the personnel. But what category of aviators violates rules of flying service or of preparing equipment for flights, in what kinds of flight training are deviations from its regulating documents permitted most often, or what work is being done to combat the preconditions--you will not always hear specific answers to these and other questions. This attests above all to a shallow knowledge of the state of affairs and an inability to look ahead and foresee events.

Speaking of forecasting, I would like to emphasize the importance, in analyzing a particular problem, of seeing everything containing innovation and having prospects for growth. To take note of new elements, support them, help them acquire a ticket to life, and create conditions for their development--the duty of every manager is seen in this above all.

A th rough analysis and forecasting are important in organizing competition as well. SAM unit commander Col G. Klimentov and political department chief Lt Col I. Yashchenko set an example of thoughtful analytical work in this important matter. Figuratively speaking, they constantly kept their hands on the collective's pulse of life, delved deeply into the progress of competition, uncovered and promptly remedied bottlenecks and deficiencies, and adopted foremost experience in a businesslike manner. The concerted, concrete work of the commanders, political workers, and the party and Komsomol organizations ensured success: The regiment, which initiated competition in the National Air Defense Forces in the past training year, completely fulfilled its socialist pledges.

These days competition for a worthy greeting to the 26th CPSU Congress is unfolding ever broader among the troops. The baton of the right-flankers of competition was received by personnel of the SAM regiment commanded by Col V. Parshikov. Their appeal to mark the year of the 26th CPSU Congress with high vigilance, a further increase in combat readiness and a strengthening of military order was supported unanimously in all air defense units. The collectives made high, strenuous pledges. Successful fulfillment of the pledges will require a further improvement in organizational and analytical work by commanders, political entities, and the party and Komsomol organizations.

The report-election campaign is presently coming to an end in party organizations. It provides an opportunity for political entities and party organizations to perform a thorough, comprehensive analysis of their work and determine the most effective means and ways for high-quality resolution of practical tasks.

I would like to emphasize that analysis is not a tribute to fashion, but a most important means for thoroughly seeing and understanding the problems arising among troop units, actively influencing their solution, and attaining a high level of military discipline and combat readiness of the units and combined units.

Moscow District Air Defense

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Dec 80 p 2

[Article by Lt Col Yu. Koldyshkin, Order of Lenin Moscow ADD: "Party Members in Combat Formation: One Alert More"]

[Text] The viscous silence flowed in unnoticed as if a quiet evening had softly descended. It even seemed that twinkling stars had lit up in the distant sky and somewhere to one side a garrulous brook boomed on the dark, cold rocks. Maj P. N. Tomila shook off his drowsiness with an effort and straightened up on the narrow metal chair. The third day of the exercise was making itself known--midnight in the radar complex cabin heaped fatigue on his shoulders, which pulled him unbearably toward sleep, and the varicolored flashes of signal lights seemed to be some kind of strange, restless stars.

Petr Nikolayevich looked around the cabin carefully. The equipment bays gave off a dull gleam in the dim, warm dusk. Dials of measurement instruments stood out on the panels in a whimsical, precise picture. The operators' figures, frozen in immobility, loomed above the silent little windows of the scopes. One of them, sitting closest to the major, closed his eyes involuntarily now and then. The rather young private would give a frightened start, shake his head to ward off sleep, but a minute later it again would nod to his chest.

"Having a hard time?" asked Tomila as he touched the operator on the shoulder.

"Not at all, Comrade Major," said the private, rousing himself. After falling silent for a bit, he added with embarrassment: "I just would like to sleep. I wish the targets would get moving, for a person somehow forgets about sleeping when he's working..."

"I think the breather will end soon," uttered the major.

He himself was waiting impatiently for the end to this sudden pause in "enemy" air raids. Just about a half-hour ago it was especially noisy and lively in the cabin--commands and reports sounded, the indicator displays glowed to the depth of the dead area, and instructions could be heard over the loudspeaker communications. The radar complex operated at peak load, with targets moving in from different directions, maneuvering constantly in altitude and employing various jamming extensively. As always in this situation, it was most difficult for the operators--they had to keep an eye on the tiny firefly of a blip the size of a pinhead; not lose it among the "clutter" which crawled about the screen in pearly white spots; and divine in time what cunning the "enemy" would resort to in order to penetrate to the defended objects.

Maj Tomila, deputy commander for political affairs of the radiotechnical subunit, took all this into account when he made the decision to visit the operators.

"That is the most difficult place now," he said in explaining to the commander his intentions to take part in the combat work of specialists of one of the leading systems in the complex.

He managed to chat with the operators before the beginning of the lengthy raid, and when everyone pressed closely to the screens, Petr Nikolayevich listened precisely to the reports, ready at any moment to come to their assistance--he had more than enough experience in combat work and could act for any member of the team. But the operators did not let down. They detected all targets accurately and tracked them precisely. The political officer experienced heartfelt joy for them, sensing with satisfaction his own personal participation in the radar operators' success. How much work had to be done before the novices mastered their duties and acquired the necessary skills! Practices, classes, talks with the operators--everywhere Maj Tomila took a most active part.

When the exercise began he remained in the cabin with everyone else. Here time lost its customary course--there were no dawns, no sunsets, no sunbeams, and no rustle of the wind. The lights burned with an identical impassive light in the passage between the equipment racks and the dry, warm air smelled of rubber and paint. Time was measured in aircraft raids, when the invisible but anxious tension grew palpably in the cabin, and by the brief pauses when silence would set in unexpectedly.

This brought an unbearable desire to get up and leave the cabin and breathe in the sharp night air, in which the first snowflakes were bustling about. But even silent, cold screens did not permit a person to leave.

Petr Nikolayevich rubbed his palm over his face forcefully as if wiping away fatigue and looked at the operators. He had to cheer them up and divert them from drowsiness.

"When the exercise is over," uttered the political worker pensively, "we'll arrange a good request concert with the help of our radio broadcasting center. We'll choose songs and music. And requests are being taken right now. Let's have them!"

He got out a notebook and pen and made ready to write. The soldiers looked over at the officer with interest and lively exclamations were heard:

"I'd like to hear songs by Pakhmutova!"

"It would be good to hear something by Valentina Tolkunova!"

Petr Nikolayevich made hasty notes in the pad, gratified that it had somehow become more cheery in the cabin and the constraint had disappeared. The soldiers' faces automatically came alive--they knew that Maj Tomila would keep his word and their favorite melodies would be heard without fail over the local radio broadcast. And in general, they all had deep respect for their commissar, as they called him behind his back. They knew that he had been awarded the "Combat Merit" medal.

The operators told confidentially why they liked a particular song, and behind these admissions the political worker gained access to something new in the hearts of the soldiers, who in age could have been his sons. And he considered them to be his sons, about whom he had to be concerned and know everything about them, even what kind of songs they liked, because there was a bit of their lives in this for which all their teachers were responsible.

And the political worker was one of the first to be responsible...

Something metallic tinkled over the loudspeaker and an anxious voice reported that a malfunction had been detected in the adjacent system. Petr Nikolayevich rose, closed his notebook and routinely uttered:

"I'll go over to the neighbors..."

Two officers stood at the rack with the measurement equipment and looked silently at the round window of the indicator, in which the signal stretched from end to end like a thin, sinuous snake. Tomila recognized Maj V. Voskresenskiy and Sr Lt V. Kurzikov. They turned around simultaneously at the sound of the political worker's step.

"Something serious?" he asked.

"The parameters have exceeded the tolerance," said Maj Voskresenskiy, waving a hand toward the unit in vexation. "No matter how many checks we make, we can't find the reason."

Tomila knew both officers as experienced specialists who had an excellent understanding of the sophisticated electronics. For that reason he was alarmed by their conclusion. If such experts were in such a difficult position, who could cope with this difficult task? And although Petr Nikolayevich had a cold feeling in the pit of his stomach, he did not give the appearance that he was experiencing momentary alarm. His face continued to show concentration and calmness, and this confidence in his entire appearance acted on the radar operators better than any words. They probably felt that it was unfit to be downhearted in his presence when he had faith in their knowledge and expertise, because they also had that profound human faith in him which comes when people have known each other many years, have overcome difficulties together more than once, have swallowed to their heart's content both the hot range wind and the burning cold of the troublesome winter roads, and have gone through the tests of combat watch. And Tomila himself was thinking at this time that he would hardly be able to suggest to them something which they didn't know. And the political worker probably was incapable of mastering each system to the extent to which the specialists who serviced it had done. But he was obligated to know the people and know what they were capable of. Petr Nikolayevich knew them and had a clear picture of each person's capabilities. It was probably for that reason that he immediately recalled Maj N. Shcherba, who had studied this system to perfection.

"We'll check it once more," uttered Maj Voskresenskiy.

"And please invite Maj Shcherba over," advised the political worker. "You'll see that a fresh eye will determine the malfunction faster."

Maj Shcherba had joined the worried radar operators a few minutes later. A hot dispute immediately broke out among the specialists, which generated variants for new checks. One of them was successful...

Only after this did Maj Tomila permit himself to relax somewhat the tension which had gripped him all the while the radar operators were remedying the malfunction.

Such is his profession--to be concerned for everything and about everything, whether it be combat work, organizing the personnel's leisure time, indoctrinating people, or simply a subordinate's bad mood. And each time the rhythm of life gives a collective or some individual a new problem, it sounds as a working signal for action to him. Well, that meant today would be one alert more for him.

He quietly dropped into a chair, feeling that he himself had gone over all the units with his own hands, seeking out the reason for the vexing trouble.

"Attention!" the loudspeaker rang out. "The 'enemy' dropped an assault force in the vicinity of position..."

The political worker listened to the exercise director's narrative problem carefully, then rose quickly, straightening his cap in a customary movement.

"Well," he said, "I know the road to the trenches..."

Radar Operator Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Oct 80 p 2

[Article by Lt Col S. Agababyan: "Needed for Combat: A Factor of Operators' Schooling"]

[Text] It was a strenuous day. The intensity of operational training work did not abate for a moment, and Operator 1st Class Jr Sgt A. Shcherbakov found it more and more difficult to issue air situation data. His fatigue was telling, and it was especially perceptible toward the end of the shift, but the operator tried to detect each target with the first fix and determine its coordinates and characteristics accurately. Straining his vision, he peered fixedly at the indicator screen on which the diminutive dots were moving in the chaos of light from clutter and jamming. Then the situation became even more complicated. When several low-flying and maneuvering targets appeared simultaneously, Shcherbakov began to make mistakes. At first they were slight, but then they became more significant.

The other two experienced operators--Jr Sgt I. Foksha and Pfc V. Sergiyenko--who also had the primary burden of work that day, also did not get by without mistakes.

After the practice battalion chief of staff Maj M. Dmitryuk, who had directed the subunit's actions, said: "They are the best specialists, but this happens even to them. They are letting us down."

But was the fault of the operators themselves that great?

The professional training level of Shcherbakov, Foksha and Sergiyenko is rather high. They demonstrated genuine proficiency in many tactical exercises and brilliantly performed missions under more difficult conditions than in the last practice. The operators worked with desire and a feeling of responsibility this time as well. Then what was the matter? We know that operators begin to tire with prolonged work at the scopes, their memory and acuity of vision become dulled and reaction time drops. This physiological feature of the human body is well known to Maj Dmitryuk and the other battalion officers, but for some reason it is discounted

in organizing combat training. The fact is that the subunit specialists had disruptions even before, when they had to work at the scopes for a lengthy while without a breather. That means the last incident was no surprise to anyone.

"Yes, that's so," agreed Maj Dmitryuk. "The operators should have been relieved. We didn't consider the fact that the practice would drag on excessively."

There should, of course, have been a relief. But what if we evaluate the incident more strictly, with the yardstick of actual combat? If we consider that in a combat situation teams will have to operate for a very long while without replacement, at reduced strength? How is the assigned mission to be performed in this instance?

It appears there can be only one answer: Training in the team today has to be arranged on the basis of continuous, lengthy actions by the personnel, and leading specialists above all; and methods have to be sought which heighten the soldiers' combat activeness, psychological conditioning and physical endurance.

Experience indicates that the most effective of these methods is to use special physical exercises during the work process which reduce fatigue and permit activating reserves of energy and raising the spirits.

The human body has a great reserve of so-called compensatory capabilities but it keeps them bottled up like a miserly knight. During work a person expends only a small part of his muscular and nervous energy. Even when he feels strong fatigue, the depths of his body contain abundant reserves of strength. Complexes of special physical exercises, termed restorative exercises, permit summoning them to action and disposing of them capably.

The merit of exercises lies in the fact that they can be performed without leaving the work station. By performing certain motor manipulations, an operator puts a load on all muscle groups and removes fatigue from those organs which are most subject to fatigue: the eyes, vocal organs and so on. Figuratively speaking, the operator acquires a "second wind."

Use of the complex of restorative exercises keeps the body in constant readiness for physical and psychological overloads and, as experience indicates, extends by 20-30 percent the period of active working capacity. Results are even higher in those who constantly perfect their physical and psychological conditioning and train the memory.

What we have, then, are considerable reserves for increasing specialists' combat activeness in performing important training mis Unfortunately, these reserves are not yet being used effectively everywhere in practice.

Only an insignificant number of the specialists in the radiotechnical battalion which already has been mentioned know of the existence of restorative exercises, but no one has ever mastered them to the full extent. Meanwhile, back at the beginning of this year, the unit staff sent instructions to the subunit which set forth in detail the procedure for performing the exercises and which recommended how to use them in performing combat watch and in the process of working on the equipment. But the instructions just did not find practical application. Some officers were going to try to implement them, but, doubting the possibility of

rapid results, they did not take matters to completion. For some reason the unit staff did not check how the instructions it had sent out were being fulfilled.

It is often difficult for everything new to make a way for itself. Despite the obvious nature of their benefit, restorative exercises also still have not found use everywhere. Why? I have had occasion to speak with many officers on this score.

Subunit commander Capt K. Stolbov noted that this was unquestionably a necessary matter, but he still does not clearly know how to use the exercise complex in practice. Much is said about it, but this question was not covered a single time in courses or training methods classes.

Radar chief Lt A. Kalechits heard about the special exercises back in school. He has a general idea how to perform them, but he has not yet taught his subordinates and does not use them himself. He has no time for it...

Or take the opinion of Maj A. Orekhov, chief of physical training and sport of the unit: "Why are the exercises being adopted slowly in practice? Because it is primarily we physical training and sports specialists who are engaged in this. And until all commanders and political officers join in, it will not get off dead center soon."

What is the conclusion? The primary reason for the slow adoption of the new exercise complex in practice lies in poor organizational work and certain commanders' underestimation of its value.

Practical experience indicates that the greatest benefit is achieved where the exercises are not performed episodically, from occasion to occasion, but regularly, where they have become an inalienable element of the entire combat training process.

We can refer to the experience of Radiotechnical Unit "X" for confirmation. When the special exercises were only beginning to be introduced here, many regarded them skeptically. Then Officer V. Svezhov, the unit's chief of physical training and sport, suggested testing the innovation in one of the subunits. A control group of specialists was formed. Svezhov held several classes with the soldiers together with subunit athletic organizer Capt Yu. Smirnov and set up daily supervision over performance of the exercises. Some time later the unit commander arranged an intensive practice designed for heavy loads. The control group specialists, who used the restorative exercises during the period of combat work, made the fewest mistakes. But some officers considered this result to be random. Everything was repeated in another practice as had occurred the first time. After this even the doubters believed in the innovation's effectiveness.

Now the exercises have won general recognition in the unit. They are performed on a mandatory basis on combat watch and during the period of practices. All this is done at a prearranged signal. Supervision is the responsibility of the officer acting as operations duty officer. Before young soldiers receive authorization for independent standing of combat watch, they have to pass a special test on the exercises. All this has a noticeable effect on the increase in the quality of the specialists' work.

It would appear that this unit's experience merits attention. There would also be much benefit in a new provision making it the responsibility of officials to test the specialists' knowledge of the exercise complex and their ability to use it in practice when conducting tests for class qualifications. This is required by the interests of combat readiness.

Radiotechnical Troop Training

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col A. Khorunzhiy, Northern Group of Forces: "Tradition of the outstanding Battalion"]

[Text] The command post. The scope of the plan position indicator blazes with an orange light in the semidarkness of the cabin. Several high-speed, low-flying targets are attempting to penetrate to the defended object under cover of jamming. Missilemen of the battalion commanded by Maj S. Smirnov, a master of combat qualification and a party member, who recently was awarded the "Combat Merit" medal, entered into a duel with them. The battalion firmly holds the title of outstanding and for a long while the prize for first place in standing combat watch has been registered with it.

Maj Smirnov is performing the duties of launcher control officer today. He is deliberate and extremely composed. Next to him works Maj V. Ratushnyy, a party member and commander of the radiotechnical battery, and Sr Lt Ye. Koreshkov, a party member and intercept controller who pledged to become a master of combat qualification in the year of the 26th CPSU Congress. The operators, privates O. Abdurashidov and S. Khromov, plotter Pvt I. Brovarnik and other specialists perform their tasks assiduously.

The battalion missilemen had functioned just as cohesively and capably on the range. The situation became very difficult. The air "enemy" was using intense jamming and maneuvering in course and altitude. This caught no one unawares. All classes and practices in the battalion had taken place under difficult conditions, with the use of diverse narratives requiring an extreme exertion of abilities, creative thinking and actions of initiative of the trainees. Special attention was given to operators' schooling. There were regular competitions for the title of best team and best specialist. Mutual supervision over the quality of combat equipment preparation and performance of the norms was extensively practiced. Shortcomings would be analyzed together and the best working techniques on the equipment determined.

The work put in was repaid a hundredfold. Many specialists demonstrated high schooling at the range. The battalion has kind words for Jr Sgt N. Markushev and Pvt V. Shishkin, 1st Class specialists and operators who now have been released to the reserve and who surprised even experienced inspectors with their work. While taking a test for authorization for field firing, the operators tracked a detected target with such filigree precision that the inspector, watching the readings of the objective monitoring equipment, asked the commander:

"Why is automatic tracking being performed? Shift to manual..."

"It is manual tracking," was the report.

The inspecting officer went to the radar cabin to thank the operators for such art in combat work.

It stands to reason that news about this carried to the positions instantaneously. The launcher members declared confidently: "We will function no worse." As a matter of fact, they demonstrated teamwork and precision in work on the combat equipment. The launcher team headed by 1st Class Specialist Sgt I. Stepanov set a unit record in loading the launcher with a live missile (it won this right in stubborn competition).

The combat mission of repulsing the mass air strike was accomplished successfully. The battalion returned from the range with an outstanding grade.

The trip to the range made the collective even more cohesive. The "raw" specialists listened to participants of the operational training launches with heightened attention and adopted their experience.

Maj Smirnov's composure and confidence is passed on to his subordinates. The team works precisely and without fuss. All necessary data are given to the commander quickly. There follows an instantaneous analysis of the air situation and selection of the most optimum variant of actions. A few tense seconds go by and the subunit accomplishes the practice launch. Then there is a brief pause in combat work and again reports about targets are heard.

Launcher teams also work diligently. The subordinates of Jr Sgt Yu. Krestnikov, a 1st class specialist, are attempting to better the norm, but everything does not yet go as it should. One of the members, Pvt S. Vishnyakov, just arrived in the team and he does not yet have firm skills. This affects the results of the entire team's work. Jr Sgt Krestnikov knows from his own experience that more than just a hundred practices will have to be conducted in order to achieve faultless teamwork. For that reason abrupt commands and reports are heard again and again at the launcher and the stopwatch clicks in the officer's hand.

The launcher battery now is commanded by Sr Lt P. Maz'ko, who replaced Capt V. Shiukashvili, who left for another battalion with an advancement. Maz'ko is a diligent officer who can work with people, but he is experiencing many difficulties in the new position at first. How important it is to keep an officer from losing faith in his own ability and to help him [illegible] experience faster. Maj Smirnov works much with him and teaches him to plan combat training and organize competition. Maz'ko accomplishes his tasks more and more competently.

Having fervently supported the call of the initiator of competition in the Air Defense Forces--the regiment commanded by Col V. Parshikov--the battalion missilemen pledged to multiply the number of outstanding teams and have no laggards in combat training by the day the 26th CPSU Congress opens.

When we consider that young privates have come to replace highly rated specialists in the subunit, it will become clear how difficult this task is. But it is within the capability of the cohesive collective, in which a remarkable tradition of always being ahead and accomplishing all operational training missions excellently has taken shape and become stronger. Various trainer equipment has been used here capably for classes and practices from the first days of the new training year.

Battalion officers also made a great contribution to improving the equipment. For example, under the direction of Maj V. Ratushnyy, senior lieutenants Ye. Koreshkov and A. Ivanov and other specialists made an attachment for tracking practice targets that is widely used in training young soldiers.

A short breather, and again combat intensity in the CP cabin. When the practice ended the commander summarized its results: The targets did not get through to the defended object.

Training Results Reviewed

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Oct 80 p 2

[Article by Col G. Klimentov: "Results of the Training Year; Experience of Those in the Lead: With Consideration of Combat Requirements"]

[Text] Before me are three reports from range instructors petitioning for a commendation for the regiment's servicemen for exemplary actions during preparations for and conduct of operational training missile firings. I read the names of the officers, warrant officers, sergeants and privates and the episodes of the hot, extremely intense range work, which became the final exam of the training year for all of us, come alive in my memory. This exam was very difficult, but the people did everything for the sake of achieving success. The launcher team commanded by Sr Lt Z. Bulatov, for example, bettered the daytime norm by 21 percent under nighttime conditions. Other teams also demonstrated an ability to accomplish operational training missions excellently.

We tried to perform each practice and each class without indulgences or oversimplifications, against a difficult tactical background requiring an exertion of all effort, initiative and imagination of the people from the very first days of the training year. Such an approach fully justified itself. Even the most acute situations caught no one unawares during the final tactical exercise which concluded the range missile launches. Similar situations had been practiced in one way or another throughout the training year and so everyone was ready for them.

It is easy to say train without indulgences or oversimplifications. The fact is that this is backed by an enormous amount of work by commanders, political officers and staff officers, by their imaginative search and persistent struggle with everything hindering high effectiveness of the training and indoctrination process and competition.

I recall a report came in once from Capt V. Buryak, launcher battery commander, to the unit staff: The teams were bettering the norms of loading launchers by an average of 10 percent with an outstanding quality of all operations. It goes without saying that this is a remarkable success. How was it achieved? The staff officers traveled to the subunits and Capt Buryak held a practice on their instructions. The launcher team members considerably bettered the norms during the day, at night, and with or without protective gear.

Nevertheless, this time the results were not taken into consideration. The staff officers concluded that elements of oversimplification had been allowed in training the launcher team members. All practices here had been conducted on one launcher

where the access road was most convenient for the transport and loading vehicle drivers. The combat work conditions also were made easier by the fact that, despite instructions, the drivers took their places in the cabs even before loading began, with the remaining team members not under cover, but not far from the launcher. That is how the time saving accumulated. But when each team had to work on its own launcher and fulfill the requirements of instructions punctually, the results proved enormously more modest.

Methodology for mastering related specialties also required improvement. Battery teams had attained complete interchangeability, but the subunit commander had not given consideration to the fact that in actual combat they would have to resort to the help of members from other teams as well. As experience indicates, bringing in even the best specialist for work from the neighboring team degrades results at first. It follows that this inevitably affects a battalion's fire interval. It also cannot be ignored that there will be no one to replace disabled specialists in combat. That means they must learn to perform combat work at reduced strength as well.

Capt Buryak had to listen to sharp but just criticism addressed to him. He also was given advice on improving the training methodology and bringing practice conditions closer to combat reality. And it must be said that Party Member Buryak drew the necessary conclusions for himself from the criticism and managed to implement in practice the recommendations he received.

The staff officers also evaluated their work in a critical light. The fact is that had the planning of combat training been more detailed and objective and supervision over its progress more effective, the shortcomings might not have occurred. After analyzing the organization of practices in other launcher subunits, we concluded that corrections had to be made in their methodology. The fact is that no matter what plusses are provided, for example, by the technique of the teams' alternate loading of launchers--and this technique is the most widespread and considered almost classical--it does not permit achieving a maximum load for the launcher team members.

An analysis indicated that the method by which practices are organized in the launcher battery commanded by Capt V. Chernichkin is the most effective. Its essence is as follows. While one team performs the norm in a complex, a second practices, for example, the approach to the launcher and its leveling, a third learns to repulse a ground "enemy" assault and so on. As a rule battle-noise simulators are used and there is simulation of conflagrations and the sounds of aircraft diving on the position (they are recorded on magnetic tape). Practices began to be held with special intensity during bad weather: in the rain and in a heavy wind. It stands to reason that all this required the officers, warrant officers and NCO's to perform more thorough preparations for the classes and to use methods innovations.

This year we posed the question of our commanders' professional training with special acuteness. Everything was not going well for us here. There were bottlenecks and unresolved problems. We declared a real battle on indifference, self-complacency and conceit. This issue was discussed at a party meeting.

It often happens where an intensive practice is going on under a plan which the battalion commander worked out intelligently, with inventiveness and nonstereotyped situations. The situation is useful and instructive for all except the commander himself. And what is the result? The officer directs subordinates and teaches them to fight, but in the process of this training his personal schooling receives not an iota of improvement. Practices conducted at the unit level also do not always eliminate this gap. Moreover, if these practices are not thoroughly thought out, subunit commanders become passive executors of commands and instructions coming from the unit CP. How does this look in practice? The unit CP determines which target should be brought under fire first of all and which mode of equipment operation to use. Like it or not, the subunit commanders become accustomed to the simple role of performers.

In one of the practices I order all communications lines of the CP which are transmitting to be unhooked at the most intensive moment. And what happens? For several minutes the subunit commanders only worked on trying to get in touch with the CP. And only after they became convinced that this was impossible did they begin to analyze the air situation themselves and make decisions.

Running ahead, I will say that such narrative problems now are no surprise to anyone. But at that time this incident prompted me (the commander) and the staff to take a critical look at the organization of our subunit commanders' training and revise the criteria by which it was evaluated. As a matter of fact, the existing criteria did not permit a full determination of the degree of preparedness for conducting combat actions either of individual specialists or of the subunit commanders. For example, Capt V. Nalimov was considered to be our best CP specialist. But it was this officer who was not able to make a competent decision once when a critical situation took shape.

The regimental staff officers headed by Maj V. Nesmyanovich worked a great deal to draw up recommendations for improving the training process. All the most valuable elements generated by competition and by the experience of the best officers were considered and used. These recommendations comprised a unique methods aid on holding classes and practices on the equipment under near-combat conditions. Now the battalion commander submits a plan for each practice to the staff, where the plan is updated. A simulation is developed on its basis which will be carried out by the unit CP. Missions are updated for officers given the duties of umpires. In short, practices come close to tactical exercises in their scope and intensity. They provide a maximum of instruction not only for specialists, but also for subunit commanders [illegible]ecting their tactical training and accustoming them to independence and a [illegible] initiative.

I would like to say a word in particular about the so-called system of narrative problems, intended to complicate the conditions of combat work. Above all, we decided to study thoroughly which narrative problems subunit commanders use and what effect they provide. The analysis highlighted a curious pattern: The more complex the situation, the more simplified are the narrative problems used. Commanders apparently prefer not to take a risk, so that a high grade is received in any case. I myself had occasion to observe the following picture: There was a pause in a raid by the air "enemy" and then specialists were "disabled" and "malfunctions" appeared in the equipment. It was also typical that the "malfunctions" as a rule appeared in secondary sectors and the specialist "disabled" is one who can be replaced immediately by a nearby comrade.

But how will the subunit operate if, let's say, there is a malfunction of the launcher, the reconnaissance and target designation radar is disabled, or all specialists in the control cabin are disabled simultaneously just before the missile launch? Such narrative problems usually are not employed, but these are the ones which create situations foreseeable in actual combat.

Considering all this, the regimental staff developed an entire system of narrative problems which permitted making the training process more intensive, saturated and effective for developing combat and psychological qualities in missilemen. By honing skills in a complex and really instructive situation, the missilemen learn to overcome difficulties and display persistence and initiative. In one exercise the battery commander was replaced by Sr Sgt V. Petrushenko under a narrative problem. Sr Sgt Petrushenko confidently directed the subunit not just in one phase, as previously was the case, but for the full extent.

...I would like to refer again to the range instructors' reports. It stands to reason that all the servicemen mentioned in them and the other outstanding specialists were commended. But the important element is that we carefully studied and generalized their experience and we will adopt it in the practice of the missilemen's combat training from the very beginning of the training year. We also will continue with the work aimed at developing in officers, warrant officers and NCO's a critical approach to matters and a sense of principle in evaluating what has been achieved. This is an important condition for the success of all our work aimed at increasing the unit's combat readiness and for a worthy greeting to the 26th CPSU Congress.

Regiment Described

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Oct 80 p 2

[Article: "National Air Defense Forces: The Regiment Which Initiated Competition Fulfilled Its Pledges!"]

[Text] The surface-to-air missile [SAM] regiment commanded by Col G. Klimentov has remarkable combat traditions. The present-day defenders of the Motherland's air borders worthily continue them. A year ago the unit was awarded the USSR Minister of Defense Pennant for Courage and Military Valor.

During this training year the regiment came out as the initiator of socialist competition in the National Air Defense Forces. The personnel fulfilled their pledges fully. Based on the year's results, the unit reconfirmed the title of outstanding, with 71 percent of the subunits and 73 percent of the teams becoming outstanding. All soldiers authorized it have a class rating and 75 percent of them have a 1st or 2d class rating. The tactical exercise with operational training missile launches on the range was conducted with a grade of "outstanding." The time for making subunits and the regiment combat ready as well as the norms of combat work were bettered by 11 percent.

All this became possible thanks to the cohesive, concerted work of commanders, political officers, and party and Komsomol organizations aimed at developing aware and ideologically conditioned soldiers capable of successfully accomplishing the difficult missions of defending the homeland's air borders and standing vigilant

combat watch. Socialist competition capably organized in the regiment for a worthy greeting to the 26th party congress contributed to the successes.

Party member Col Klimentov showed himself to be an exacting commander and a capable organizer of subordinates' training and indoctrination and of competition. He was born in 1939. After completing a military radiotechnical school, he commanded subunits. After completion of training in a military academy in 1976, he assumed command of the SAM regiment. Col Klimentov has been awarded the Order "For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" 3d Class.

In the previous article Col Klimentov told about the experience of organizing missilemen's combat training.

Siberian Military District

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Oct 80 p 2

[Article by Sr Lt V. Rudavskiy, commander of a surface-to-air missile battery, Red Banner Siberian Military District: "Not One Laggard Nearby: With Each Individually"]

[Text] The battery entered the past training year with satisfactory indicators. This is explained both by the transfer of well trained officers to other positions and by release of the best specialists to the reserve. We had many servicemen lagging in training. How could they be brought up to the level of the foremost?

We began with the young officers who had low indicators in training. Engr-Lt P. Ogorodnik was helped to draw up a long-range plan for individual training. This launcher team chief is strong in electronics, but had a poor knowledge of the norms of combat work and had difficulty performing supervision of functioning. He lacked the experience which comes with the years, but we could not wait for long. Capt Yu. Novosel'skiy, an outstanding specialist, undertook to help Ogorodnik in training.

It can now be confirmed that Party Member Novosel'skiy proved true to his word. As final classes indicated, Engr-Lt Ogorodnik now has an outstanding knowledge of the equipment assigned to him and of the combat work norms and technological cycles. The actions of the team which he commands are distinguished by teamwork and combat fervor at the launch position.

We also had to work a great deal with Lt N. Khamidullin. He also encountered great difficulties at first. I recall once at the range when the lieutenant got into a critical situation from which he could not emerge without the help of senior personnel. This happened on the eve of operational training launches, during an inspection of the missile complex. One of the systems on the launcher was disabled under a narrative problem. The "malfunction" was simple, but it placed the lieutenant in a dead end. We hastened to help him.

"Khamidullin has to be helped in special training," suggested Capt Novosel'skiy at that time.

Lt Khamidullin is a goal-oriented officer with a heightened sense of his own worth. He finished military school with honors and so one can imagine how he took the

vexing incident. We did not remind him about this, but in organizing scheduled and additional classes we tried to have the lieutenant work as much as possible with the equipment. He always worked willingly and developed noticeably as a specialist.

Of course, Khamidullin still has a great deal to learn. Like other young officers in the battery, he lacks methods expertise for now. To fill in the gap, we decided to turn to Maj V. Verkhoshentsev for experience. He is a master of combat qualification and commander of a foremost battery. He greeted us in a friendly manner and revealed all the innovations in combat training methodology which the battery uses.

We thoroughly discussed the expert's lessons at an officer's conference and planned how best to adopt the experience we had studied in the battery. First of all we increased the intensity of classes and began to change teams at the training points more often. We took account of our own mistakes in the integrated approach to organizing field exercises. Each week we began to hold competitive contests for the title of best team or best battery specialist (previously this had been done once a month). In summarizing competition results we also heard accounts from those who had demonstrated poor results for the week. This exerted a great moral pressure on them.

We had the following incident occur: The team commanded by Lt I. Shapoval functioned below its capabilities in special tactical classes. The work did not go well in the team out of nervousness. We analyzed the breakdown at a conference. Lt Shapoval and his subordinates drew conclusions for themselves and not once did they have criticism during the summer training period.

Competition results attest that our battery is completing the current year without laggards.

We now are capable of more difficult missions. We will compete for greeting the 26th party congress with outstanding indicators.

Carpathian Military District

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Oct 80 p 1

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col A. Bedzhanyan, Red Banner Carpathian Military District: "Tune to the Maximum"]

[Text] The siren sounds in an exacting bass and the missile "site" immediately comes alive, subordinated to its imperious call. The doors of barracks fly open and abrupt commands are heard. The missilemen rush toward the position at a run...

I jerk the control cabin door open. Sr Lt A. Kiselev has already begun to check the equipment here in all operating modes together with the operators.

Maj V. Serov, commander of the radiotechnical battery, carefully observes the readings of monitors next to me. A master's badge gleams dimly on his tunic. Serov really is a master of his job. If he takes the launcher control officer's place, the data for firing will be prepared accurately and promptly, with full consideration for the air situation. Should a malfunction arise in the equipment, he will immediately locate the cause and place the unit in order.

Once at the range when a target already was approaching the zone of fire a report came that one of the signals had not passed. Tension reached the limit. Another one or two minutes and the target would pass the killing zone. In this critical situation Maj Serov displayed his proficiency to the full extent. His detailed knowledge of the equipment helped him rapidly detect and remedy the malfunction. And in another ten seconds the operators and intercept control officer Sr Lt Kiselev functioned excellently.

Supervision of equipment functioning is ending. The loudspeaker brings officers' reports about readiness for combat work. One can recognize among them without difficulty the cheerful, buoyant voice of Sr Lt V. Kruglov. Like Kiselev, he arrived in the battalion three years ago. Now he wears the badge of a specialist 1st class and can tune the equipment so that it will operate without a hitch. Moreover, with his comrade's help he mastered the duties of intercept control officer.

Maj Serov once was passing a training classroom and heard excited voices behind the door. He entered and saw that is what it was: Kruglov again was arguing with Kiselev about something. There were sketches of radio circuits on the table. The board already had been filled. Restraining a smile, the major asked what the difference was about. It turned out the young officers had gotten the idea of improving a trainer, but they couldn't decide whose diagram was best. The battery commander also had to rack his brain over this.

Some time later Sr Lt Kiselev got a new idea. The old way, where matters come down to a soldering iron and the scrupulous panel mounting, already is boring to him. This work is more to the liking of Sr Lt Kruglov. But should Kiselev be condemned for such an impatient enthusiasm? It would not appear worthwhile. The young officers fortunately supplement each other's character. Though rivals in competition, they are real friends in their relations and they have a common desire to serve so as not to sully the honor of their native battalion and fulfill precongress pledges fully.

Other officers also live with the very same thought. I recall the day when news came to the battalion about the opening of the 26th CPSU Congress in February of next year. The missilemen decided to increase their pledges, but some of the officers expressed doubt: Haven't you gone a bit high? The launcher team members were the subject in particular. But launcher battery commander Capt V. Krivonosov, relying on concrete estimates, proved that the heightened pledges were fully within the capability of his subordinates.

From that day competition broke out among launcher teams for a stable bettering of the norms with an outstanding quality in performing all operations. The desired results could not be achieved all at once. One time one of the launcher team members would shine with his adroitness and proficiency, but take a look the next day and his indicators again are dropping. But the battalion commander and Capt Krivonosov would invariably find the true reason for such a drop. A detailed critique of each practice and concrete missions for the following day, and the battery soldiers' proficiency grew step by step in that way. Jr Sgt I. Kopytin's team now betters the norm by 10-12 percent. The other teams are right on its heels in competition.

A few more agonizing minutes go by, and then the coordinates of the first target have been given. Now every second is dear. Although this is an ordinary practice, an account is demanded for each conditional launch as if it were a genuine one. For this reason the missilemen try to act as precisely as possible.

The first target has been "brought under fire." Then the blip of still another--a small, high-speed target--appears on the very edge of the scope. Will Sr Lt Kiselev notice it in time? He did! And immediately operators Jr Sgt Kh. Mamedov and Pfc G. Yegorov begin working. Well, they shifted to tracking in time and the accuracy is high...

It is still not known when this practice will end, but one thing can be said precisely: Each minute will be used to the maximum until its very end. The missile outpost is preparing to go on combat watch.

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